

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY IN THE
NORTHERN PLAINS AREA - 1994/1995

George F. Andrews
University of Oregon

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C O N T E N T S

1. DZIBILCHALTUN

A. Structure 44

2. EK BALAM

A. Data from survey made in 1983

B. Data from survey made in 1994

1. Structure 10

2. Structure 17

3. CHICHEN ITZA (Photos only)

4. IZAMAL

1. Kinich-Kak-Moo Complex

2. Kabul Complex

3. Kantunil Sacbe

DZIBILCHALTUN

STRUCTURE 44

Structure 44 is situated on the south side of the Central Plaza at Dzibilchaltun and its western end overlooks the Cenote Xlacah. In its final form, Structure 44 consisted of two main components: 1) a stepped substructure about 134 m long overall and 8.5 m high, with a very long stairway on its northern side; and 2) a very long, gallery-type superstructure with a series of 35 doorways overlooking the Central Plaza to the north. While exceptionally long buildings are known from other lowland Maya sites, such as Structure at Edzna and Structure at Nakum, Structure 44 has the distinction of having the longest stairway of any known structure in all of Mesoamerica.

The long, gallery-type superstructure is divided into three main rooms; the central room is about 17.6 m long and the lateral rooms are both about 47 meters long. Its overall length is about 115 meters, including the thickness of the dividing walls between rooms and the end walls. There are 5 doorways in the central room and 15 each in the adjacent rooms. These doorways average about 1.6 m wide and the piers between are about 1.5 m wide.

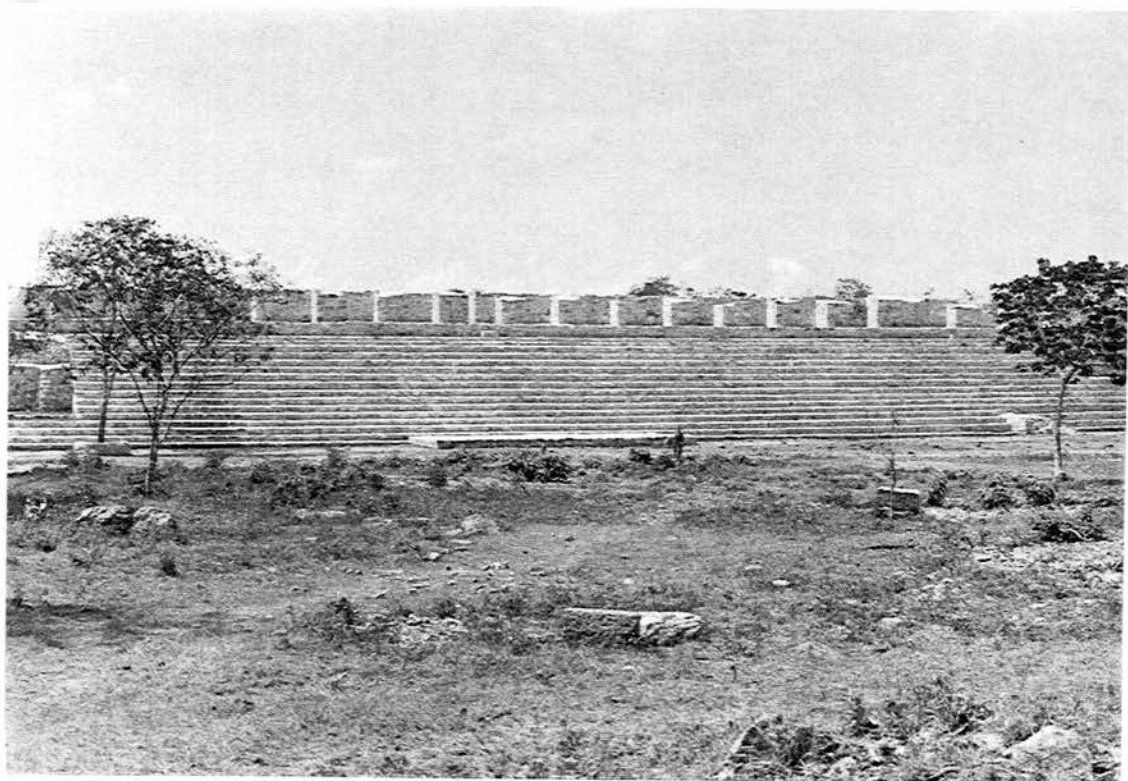
Following its excavation during 1992-94, under the direction of Ruben Moldanado, an archaeologist from the Centro Regional de Yucatan, INAH, Structure 44 was found to have been constructed in four main stages. Vestiges of the earlier phases can be seen in the round corners of the main substructure and in the now-

buried building which can be seen near the center on its northern side.

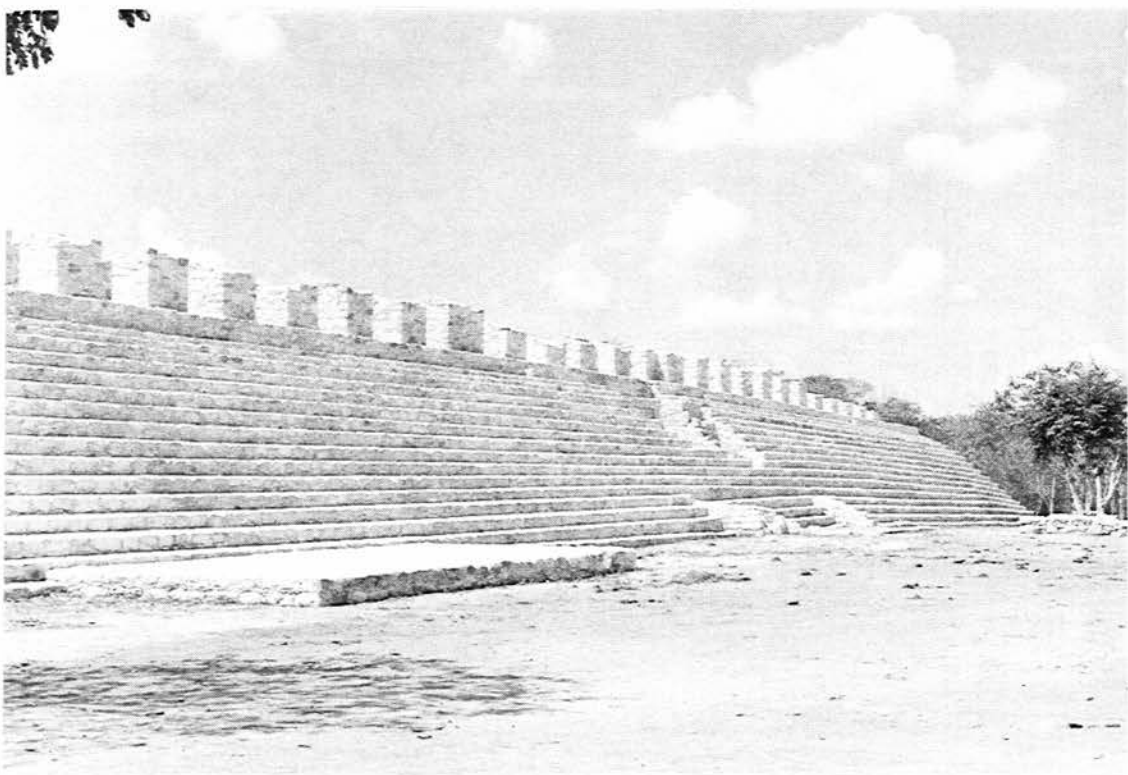
While Andrews V (1980) has placed the construction of Structure 44 in Early Period II or Late Classic (600-800 A.D.), it continued to be used for important public rituals throughout the Pure Florescent or Terminal Classic period (800-1000 A.D.).

It is a structure with great constructive volume; 110 meters long and, at the front, probably the longest series of steps in Mesoamerica. It shows four different periods of construction. The first is found to the West, terminating in a rounded corner facing towards the central square. Remnants of a second period are found to the East, which cover a smaller building (Structure 44). It has a larger addition on the further eastern side and another smaller one which covers the building, mainly on the latter part, where one can observe five enclosed steps. It was in use during the Late Classic and Terminal Classic periods (600-1000 A.D.) and was closely related to the function of the Central Square, where hundreds of spectators could look upon or participate in the rites held there.

From plaque at site.



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. View of north side



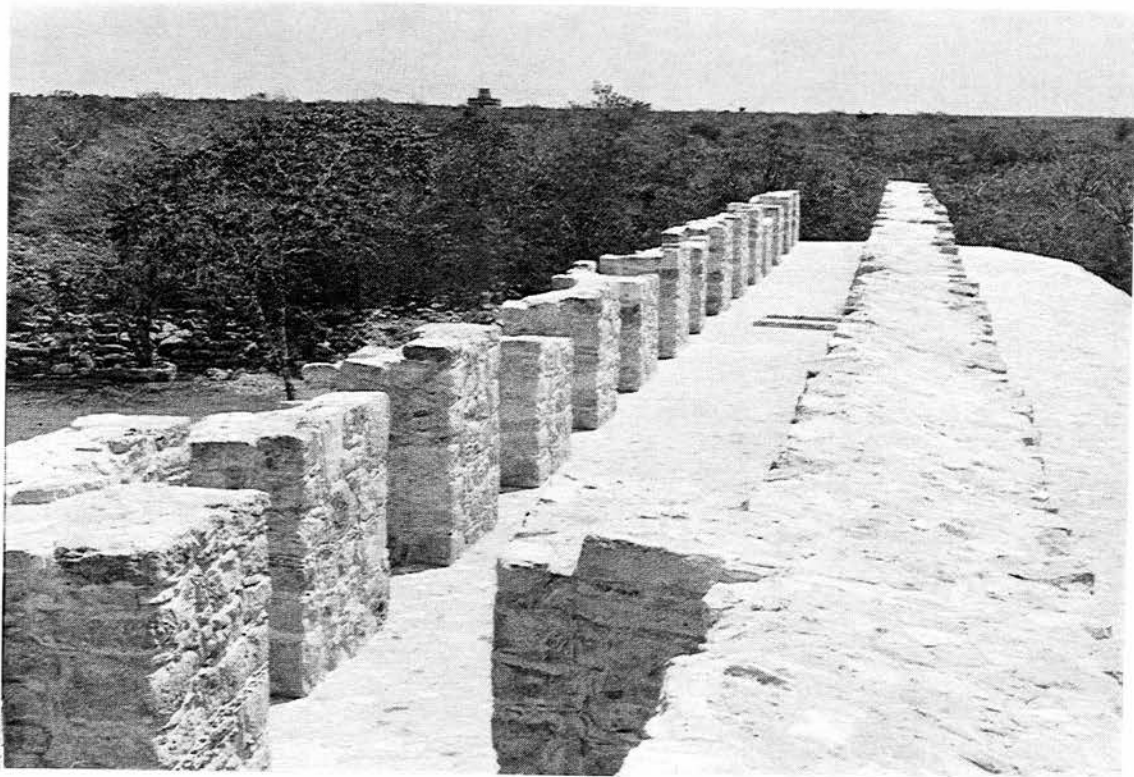
DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. Monumental stairway, north side



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. View from plaza showing buried building



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. Detail of upper facade, buried building



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. View of east gallery.



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. View of gallery looking west



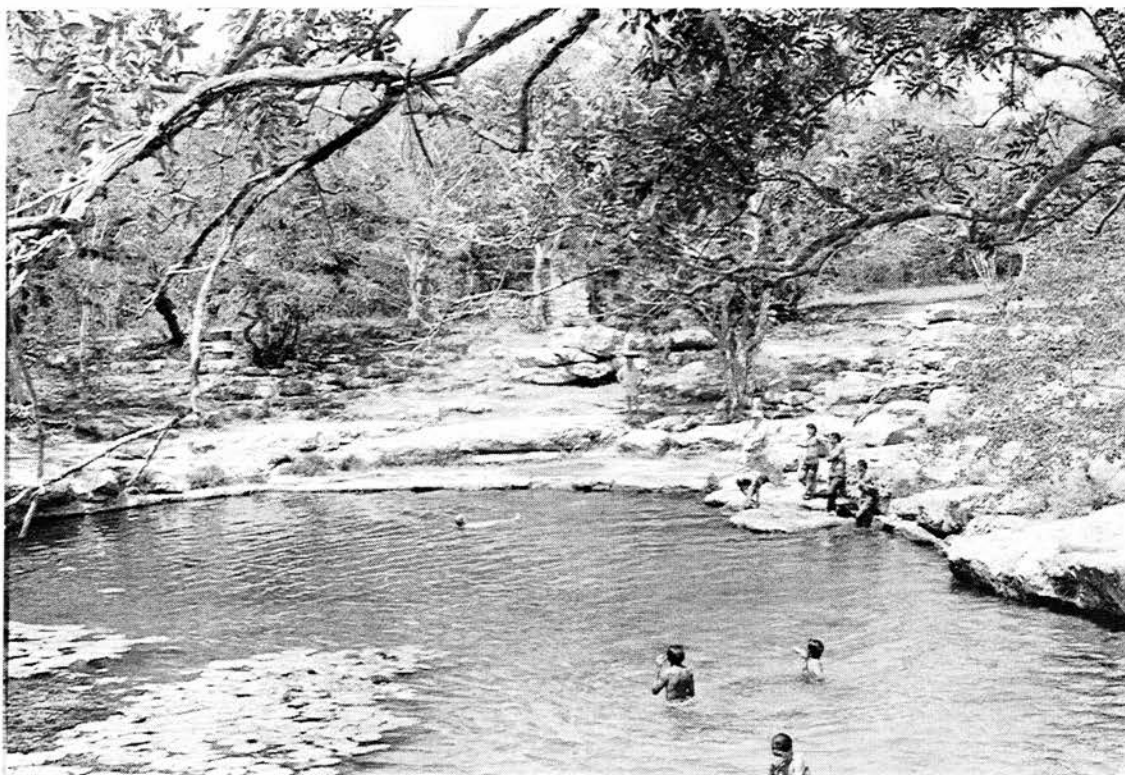
DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. Piers and doorways, north facade



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. Painting on floor of superstructure



DZIBILCHALTUN, Cenote Xlakah as seen from Structure 44



DZIBILCHALTUN, Cenote Xlakah



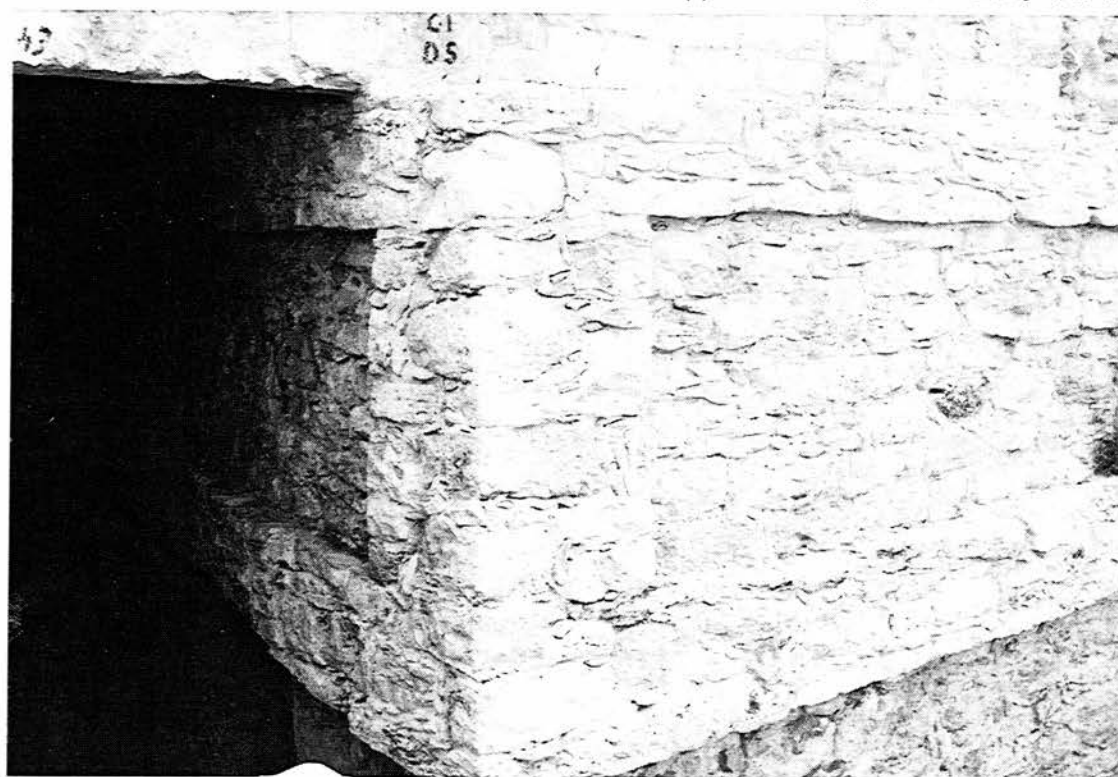
DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. Detail of east end of substructure



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. Upper facades of buried building



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. Detail of upper facade, end wall, buried bldg.



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. Upper facades of buried building



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. Monumental stairway, looking west



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. Monumental stairway looking east



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. View of gallery-like rooms of superstructure



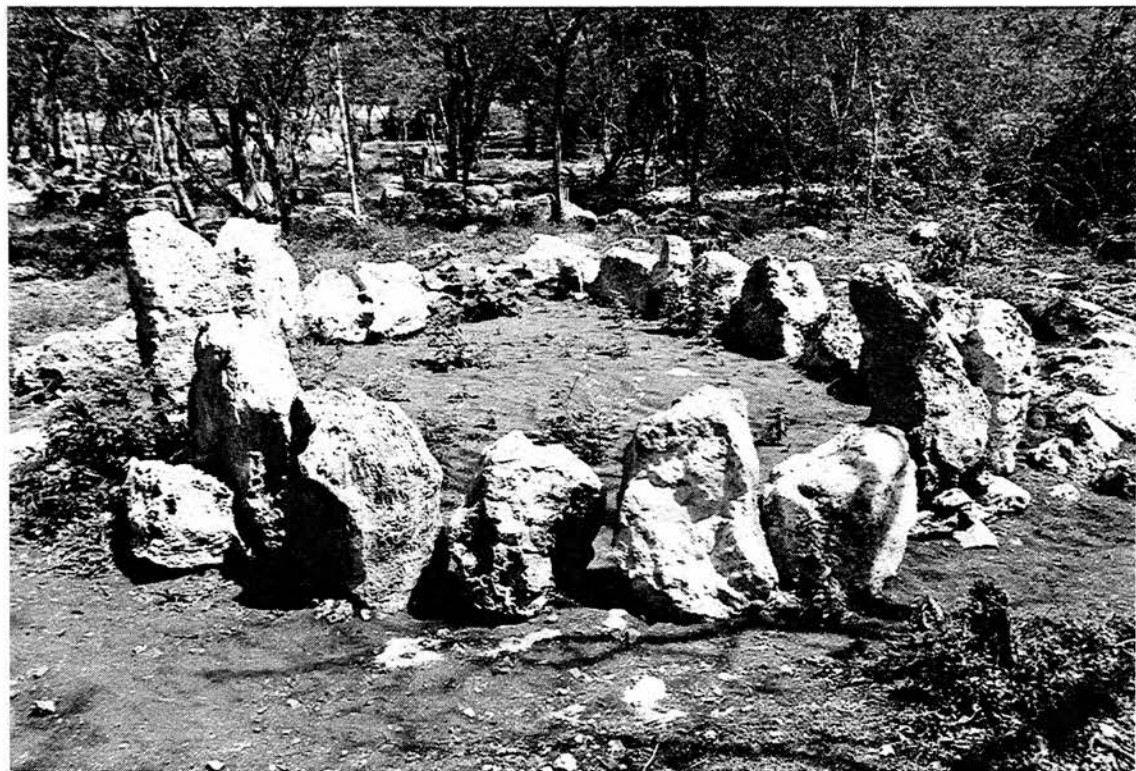
DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. View of central room of superstructure



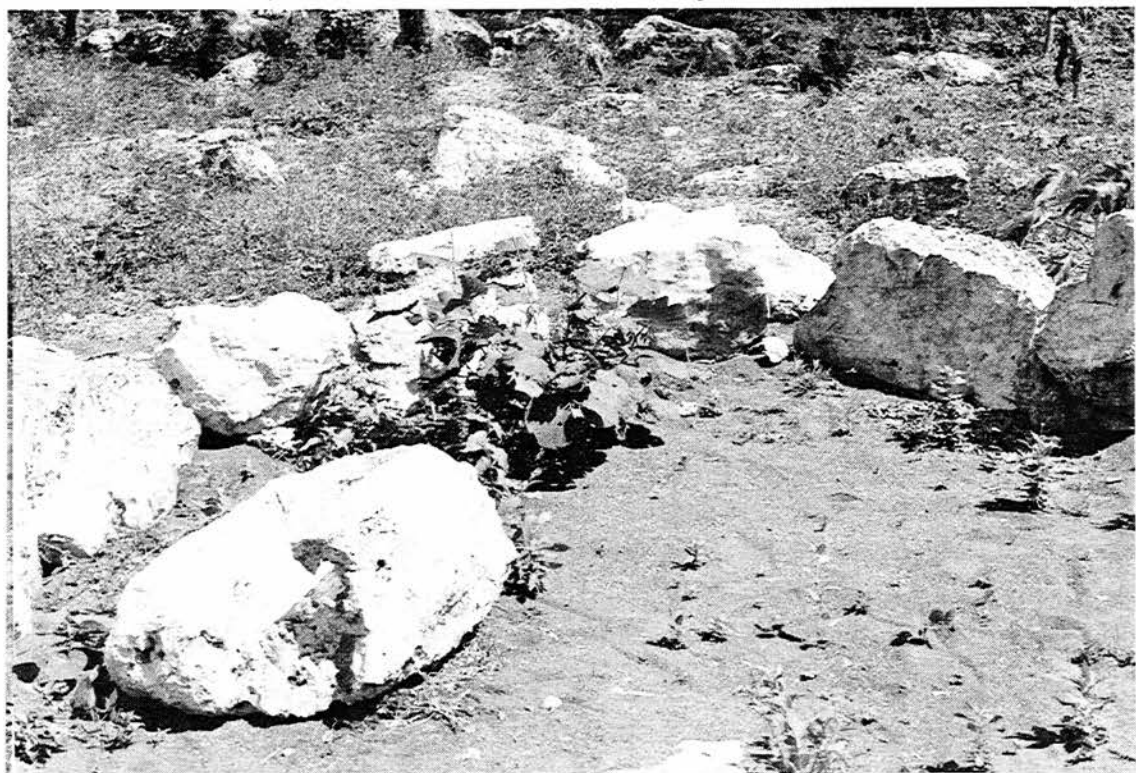
DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. View from northeast corner of plaza



DZIBILCHALTUN, Structure 44. View across Central Plaza



DZIBILCHALTUN, Apsoidal house foundation adjacent to sacbe



DZIBILCHALTUN, Portion of apsoidal house foundation adjacent to sacbe

E K B A L A M

BACKGROUND: Site was first reported by Desire Charnay (1886, 1933) but so far, I have been unable to obtain a copy of this report. Teobert Maler (n.d.) visited the site in the early nineteen hundreds but his report has not been published. S.G.Morley and Jean Charlot (1928) visited the site many years later, primarily to investigate the report of a hieroglyphic inscription noted by Charnay many years earlier. I visited the site in March of 1983, accompanied by my wife and assistant, Geraldine Andrews, when we obtained some architectural data on three partly standing vaulted masonry buildings situated on high platforms near the center of the site. Since our visit, Wm. Ringle, George Bey III, and several colleagues (1989, 1991) have carried out an extensive program of mapping and related studies at the site, greatly amplifying the data obtained from my own very preliminary reconnaissance of the site center.

SITUATION: The site is situated about 23 kilometers north, and slightly east of the modern town of Valladolid. This puts it about 1 kilometer east of the village of Ek Balam. It should also be noted that the site is roughly equidistant from both Chichen Itza and Coba (about 50 kilometers), and is the dominant site in the area north of Valladolid.

TOPOGRAPHY: The site itself is relatively flat, although there is some local relief due in part to the fact that there are a number of circular depressions (*rejolladas*) in the area surrounding the central core area. The terrain in the vicinity of the site is flat to gently rolling.

WATER SUPPLY: According to Ringle and Bey (1989) two cenotes, which show clear evidence of heavy use by the ancient inhabitants of Ek Balam, can be found east and west of the site core at distances of 1.5-2.0 kilometers from the main plaza, and numerous chultunes are found throughout the site, but not in sufficient quantity to have been the primary source of drinking water. Several wells were also found at the center of a few *rejolladas* but these are also some distance from the site core, raising questions as to why the major sources of water were so far from the main center.

MAPS: My sketch map of the site core from 1983 should be considered as nothing more than an "eyeball" sketch, based on estimates of locations and distances between the various

structures shown. Fortunately, the new maps prepared from the Ringle/Bey surveys show some 1.25 km/2 of the site in considerable detail. One of these maps shows the central core area and the surrounding enclosing walls at a large scale while the other at a smaller scale shows all of the areas explored by Ringle and Bey, including the several sacbeob. See copy of these maps included with present report.

SIZE: The new Ringle/Bey maps show that the site core was delineated by an oval-shaped pair of low walls enclosing a total area of 11.9 ha. While only 1.25 km/2 of the site was mapped by them in detail (see Ringle/Bey map 2), reconnaissance surveys along the sacbes leading out from the site center indicate that in all, the site covered at least 12 km/2, suggesting that Ek Balam might well have covered a larger area than Chichen Itza, although the density of structures may have been lower.

CIVIC PLAN: As noted above, the site core is defined by a pair of oval-shaped, low walls with numerous entrances. Five sacbeob lead outward from the outer enclosing wall and three of these (west, north, east) are about 1.8-2.0 kilometers in length while the two roadways running southward are considerably shorter. The various sacbeob seem to point toward the major structures in the walled-off site center and are terminated at their outer ends by important masonry structures.

As can be seen in the Ringle/Bey maps, the site core itself consists of a very large plaza, with monumental platform complexes on the west, north and east sides. Ringle and Bey have described the northern structure (Structure 1) as an acropolis but I would prefer to describe it as pyramid-platform complex, with a lineal, rather than quadrangular organization; the latter form being more common in other regions. The south side is more irregularly defined by a group of three structures, including a good-sized pyramid roughly centered on the plaza to the north. Surrounding this great quadrangular complex are the two roughly parallel low walls which mark off the central core area from the surrounding areas. Numerous large structures are found outside of the walled-off area, as is the case at Uxmal, where a single low wall also surrounds many of the largest building complexes within the entire site. At both Uxmal and Ek Balam, a good case can be made that the walls, which are very low and show numerous entrances, were not defensive in function, but served only to delimit the area containing the most important civic and elite residential structures.

COMMENTS: While Morley's statement (1928:317-18) regarding the size and importance of Ek Balam accords well with my own impression, and is consistent with the new Ringle-Bey site data, his description of the architecture he saw there is completely at odds with both my data and that of Ringle and Bey. According to Morley, the buildings he saw were low and built entirely of crudely dressed masonry, recalling the low arched chambers of buildings on the East Coast, which are of late origin. See Appendix for complete copy of Morley (1928) report.

In contrast, the buildings which I recorded (Structures 2 and 17 on Ringle/Bey map), differ in every respect from those described by Morley. The west building on top of the platform of Structure 2 has a high (over 8 ft.) vault faced with moderately well-cut slabs with beveled faces. Both interior and exterior walls are faced with small, well-dressed semi-veneer type stones creating smooth surfaces. The medial molding has a three-member, Puuc-like medial molding with apron-type members top and bottom and door jambs are faced with small blocks, similar to those seen in wall facings.

Both the north and south buildings of Structure 17 also show high vaults, faced with slabs with beveled faces, but the latter are not as well-cut as those seen in the West Building of Structure 2. The exterior walls of both buildings are faced with medium-sized rectangular blocks, only moderately well finished, and both also have three-member medial and cornice moldings, fashioned from both rectangular and beveled blocks. The buildings of Structure 17 in particular are monumental in scale, whereas the buildings described by Morley are small and diminutive in scale. It should also be noted that none of the Ringle-Bey papers refer to any buildings of the kind described by Morley and I am simply baffled by the disparity between Morley's observations and ours.

To summarize, based on what can be seen of its architecture (and ceramics as well) Ek Balam appears to be a Late/Terminal Classic site. The superstructures (North and South Buildings) of Structure 17 show construction technology which seems earlier than that seen in the West Building of Structure 2 and I would tentatively place the construction of these buildings in the Late Classic Period, while Structure 2, including its superstructure, might better be considered as a Terminal Classic construction.

SITE: EK BALAM NUMBER: 16Qd(9):17 DATE: 3/17/1983

STRUCTURE 2 (Designated as Structure A-1 in 1983)

Structure 2, which stands on the west side of the main plaza, consists of a high, rectangular platform which supports the remains of several buildings on its broad upper level. This platform measures about 50 meters east-west and 70 meters north-south. Only one building located near the western edge of the platform, is sufficiently well preserved to offer any significant architectural detail (see description and data which follows. A portion of the north side of the platform of Structure 2 is also fairly well preserved, showing a nearly vertical, cut-stone faced wall, about 3.95 meters high with a two or three-member cornice molding along the upper edge. The lower apron-type molding is formed with four courses of stones and the rectangular member above is formed with three courses. I believe there may have been an upper coping member above but this has now fallen. The main platform stands on a lower platform of uncertain height and form, which has now mostly fallen. See Ringle/Bey map for size and exact location of Structure 2.

Both Charnay (1883) and Maler (n.d.) examined (and presumably described) the Upper West Building of Structure 2 and a photograph of this building, credited to Charnay, was included in Keith Davis' book on Charnay (1981, fig. 50). A recently published book of Maler photographs (Hermann, 1992) includes three photographs taken at Ek Balam by Maler at a later date (Frontispiece, Plate 55 and Plate 56). The frontispiece shows Maler (at an advanced age) standing in a doorway of an unidentified building at Ek Balam, while Plates 55 and 56 are both of the same building (Upper West Building of Structure 2) seen in the Charnay photo. What is really strange, however, is the fact that one of the Maler photographs (Plate 55) is precisely the same one credited to Charnay by Davis. Personally, I suspect that the photo in question was actually made by Maler and either mistakenly attributed to Charnay by Davis, or else Charnay himself obtained and filed a copy of the Maler photograph with some of his own photos many years after his own report on Ek Balam had been published, where it was later found in the file of real Charnay photographs used by Davis.

SITE: EK BALAM NUMBER; 16Qd(9): 17 DATE: 3/17/83

STRUCTURE A-1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Remains of building on top of "Acropolis". Rooms on two sides but plan cannot be determined. One room partly standing.

ORIENTATION

East - 93 degrees (magnetic) perpendicular to front wall.

EXTERIOR DETAILS

BASE MOLDING

No data; covered with debris.

LOWER WALL ZONE

Height: 2.94 m; top of base to bottom of medial molding.

Stonework: Walls faced with small, veneer-type blocks, moderately well finished. Blocks are .25-.28 m long, .17-.20 m high, .20-.25 m deep.

Thickness: Front wall 1.01 m thick.

Decoration: None.

DOORWAYS

No data; fallen

MEDIAL MOLDING

Form: Three members, with apron-type members top and bottom, rectangular central member.

Size: Overall height .81 m. Lowest member .38-.41 m high; formed with 2 courses of stones.

Projection: .20 m at bottom.

Decoration: None.

UPPER WALL ZONE

No data; fallen.

CORNICE

No data; fallen.

ROOF STRUCTURE

None.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Uncertain. Stonework and profile of medial molding is Puuc-like but no decorative facade elements in place.

COMMENTS

This building was seen and photographed by Charnay in 1886 (Davis: 1981, fig. 50) and has changed little since Charnay's time. In some respects, Structure A-1 is reminiscent of Structure 1, Group B at Culuba since both buildings show very similar

stonework in walls and vault, and the medial moldings have the same profile. There is no indication that Structure A-1 at Ek Balam carried any facade decoration similar to that seen on the building at Culuba but otherwise, the similarities are sufficient to suggest that both buildings arose from the same architectural tradition.

STRUCTURE A-1

INTERIOR DETAILS

ROOM 1

DIMENSIONS

Length: 5.33 m.

Width: 2.56 m.

WALLS

Height: Uncertain; room partly filled with debris.

Thickness: Exterior wall 1.01 m thick.

Stonework: Walls faced with small, fairly well dressed veneer-type blocks. .17-.20 m high, .20-.30 m wide.

Doorways: No data; fallen.

Wall Openings: None noted.

Platforms: No data.

VAULTS

Springline Offset: .037-.05 m. Long walls and end walls.

Height: 2.44 m; springline to bottom of capstones.

Form: Vault face has straight sides.

Stonework: Vault faced with 11 courses of slabs with slight wedge shape in section. Outer face cut to slope of vault. Some chinking between courses.

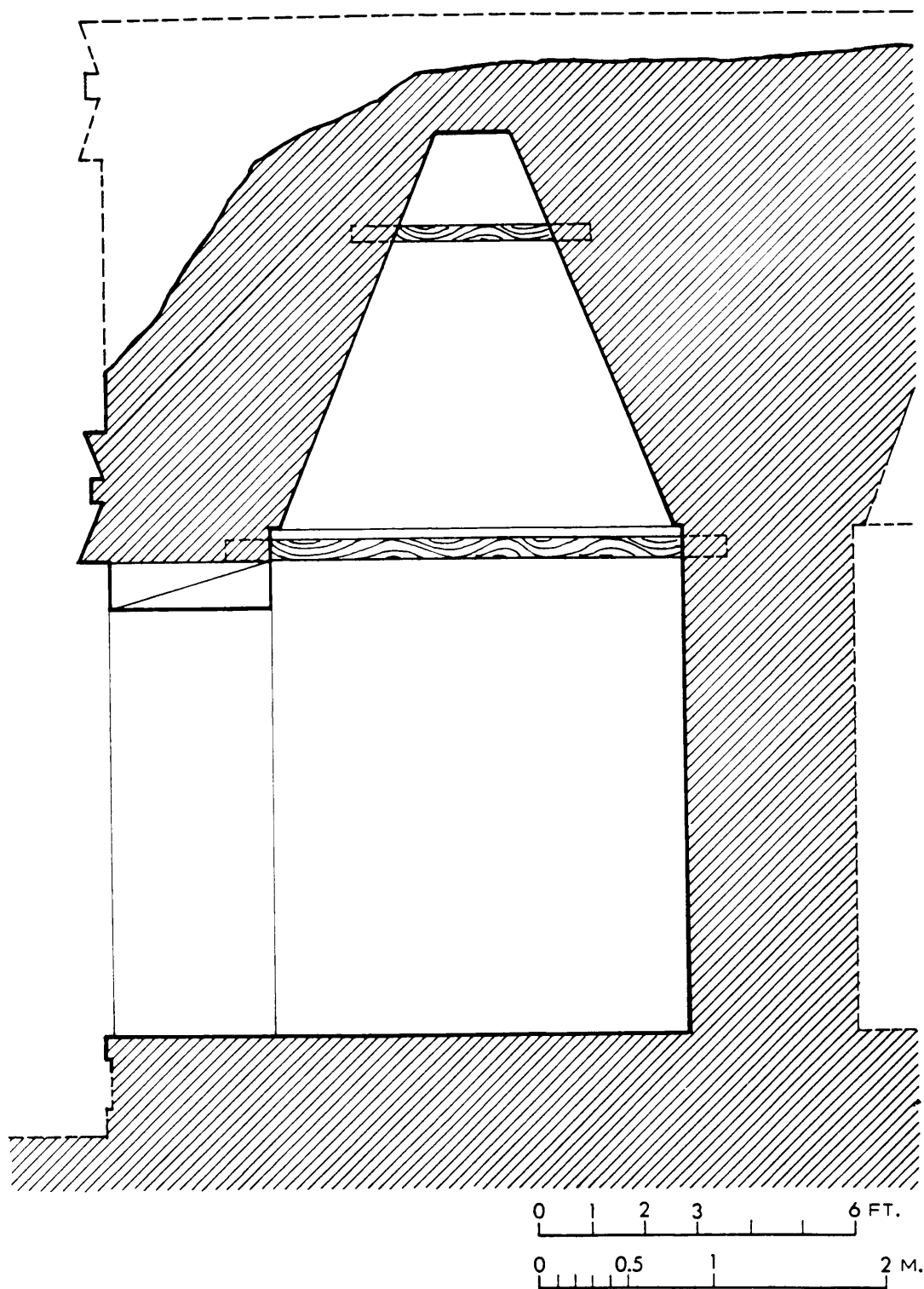
Capstones: Capstone span uncertain; outside half of vault fallen.

Crossbeams: Pairs of crossbeams near both ends of room and 1 near center of room just below springline. Additional crossbeams about .61 m to center below capstone; one at each end and 1 near center of room.

Other: Face of vault is fairly smooth as stonework is better than average.

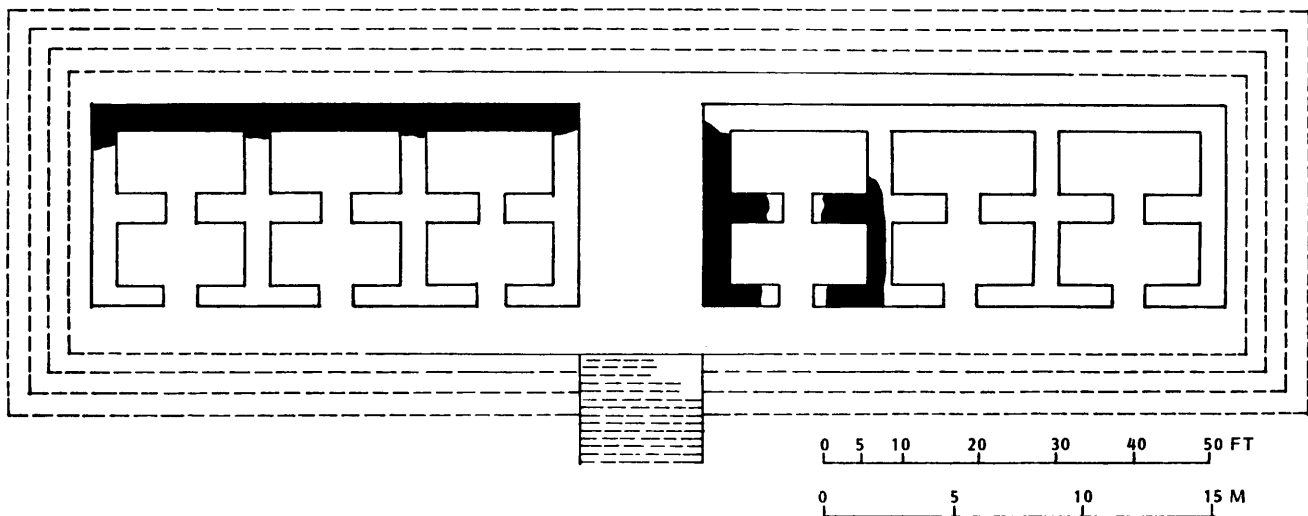
OBSERVATIONS

Fairly high vault.

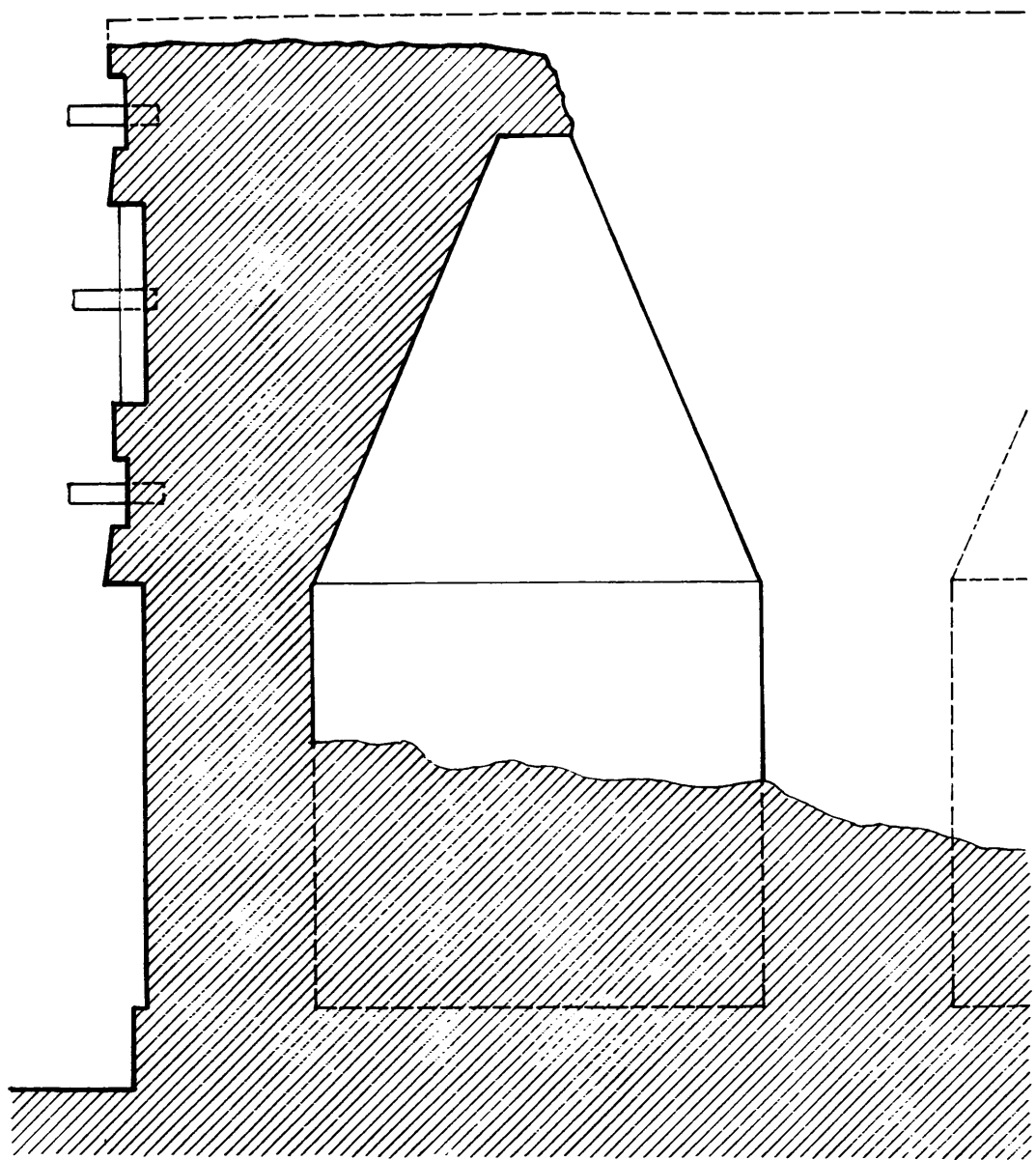


EK BALAM, Acropolis, Structure 1. Section.

→ 2



EK BALAM, Group B, Structure 1. Plan



0 1 2 3 6 FT.

0 0.5 1 2 M.

EK BALAM, Group B, South Building. Section

GROUP B

Our very limited explorations in the central portion of the site indicated that Group B consisted of several different components: 1) a long, five-meter high platform with long axis running north-south, with two good sized vaulted masonry buildings on top arranged end to end; 2) a fallen building on a low platform situated just beyond the northern end of the platform described above; 3) a large plaza on the west side of the long, north-south platform where we found several pieces of broken stelae, showing traces of sculptured human figures and hieroglyphic inscriptions, as well as a pot-bellied human figure with its head missing; and 4) two high pyramids, one just southeast of the south end of the long platform (#1 above) and the other a short distance southwest of the south end of the same platform. The two superstructures on the long platform (North and South Buildings) are described below.

Since the above was written, the Ringle/Bey data recorded in 1987 and 1989 has been published and the group of structures described above are now known as Structures 17 (Platform with two buildings on top), 8 (low platform north of Structure 17), and 16 and 18 (Pyramids southeast and southwest of Structure 17). The Ringle/Bey map also shows many other structures not seen by us, together with the enclosing walls which we were not aware of, as site was very overgrown at the time of our visit.

SITE; EK BALAM

NUMBER: 16Qd(9): 17

DATE: 3/17/83

GROUP ⁸ STRUCTURE 1 (North building)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

North building of pair of buildings arranged end to end on top of 5 m high platform. Appears to have had six rooms; two parallel rows of three rooms each with doorways on east side. Rooms, together with main facade, now mostly fallen but south end wall relatively well preserved.

ORIENTATION

Main axis runs north-south. 184 degrees (magnetic), perpendicular to south end wall. of North Building.

EXTERIOR DETAILS

Details below are for south end wall.

BASE MOLDING

No data; covered with debris.

LOWER WALL ZONE

Height: Uncertain; base molding covered with debris.

Stonework: Wall faced with roughly dressed, rectangular blocks, deeply tailed into wall hearting. Very thick layers of mortar in joints.

Thickness: No data.

Decoration: None.

DOORWAYS

Doorways fallen; no data.

MEDIAL MOLDING

Form: Three members; apron-type lower member and rectangular member at top. Recessed central member.

Size: Overall height 1.14 m. Upper member .29 m high, lower member .40 m high.

Projection: .25-.25 m at bottom. Upper wall set back about .14 m from outer face of medial molding.

Decoration: None in place.

UPPER WALL ZONE

Height: Uncertain; cornice mostly fallen.

Stonework: Upper wall faced with roughly dressed, rectangular blocks, similar to those seen in lower walls.

Decoration: None in portion of wall still standing.

CORNICE

Form: No data; mostly fallen. Assume similar to medial molding.

ROOF STRUCTURE

None.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Early northeast Yucatan style ?

COMMENTS

See comments for Structure 2 of this group.

SITE: EK BALAM NUMBER: 16Qd(9): 17 DATE: 3/17/83

STRUCTURE 1, GROUP B

INTERIOR DETAILS

Rooms mostly collapsed but portion of one room exposed in debris shows the following details.

Length: 5.47 m (approx.). 17.94'

Width: 2.44 m. 8-0

Vault: About 2.44 m high. No offset at springline and no molding below capstones. One capstone still in place is .83 m long, capstone span uncertain.

Stonework: Vault faced with rectangular slabs, about .15 m high, with beveled faces. These are similar to vault stones seen in Structure 1 of Group A but are not as well-cut. Concrete-like core behind facing stones.

GROUP B, STRUCTURE 2 (South Building)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

South building of pair of buildings on 5 m high platform. Rooms mostly collapsed but large portion of rear (west) wall and south end wall still standing. Structure 2 appears to have had six rooms; two parallel rows of 3 rooms each, with doorways on east side.

ORIENTATION

Main axis runs north-south.

EXTERIOR DETAILS

Details below are for west (rear) wall.

BASE MOLDING

Form: Single member, rectangular molding.

Size: .43 m high.

Projection: .06 m at top.

LOWER WALL ZONE

Height: 2.32 m; top of base to bottom of medial molding.

Stonework: Walls faced with 13-14 courses of roughly dressed, rectangular blocks about .38 m deep, with some chinking in joints.

Thickness: No data.

Decoration: None.

DOORWAYS

No data on doorways, all of which have fallen.

MEDIAL MOLDING

Form: Three members; apron-type lower member, rectangular upper member, recessed central member. Face of upper member has very slight inward slope.

Size: Overall height .99 m. Upper and lower members about .30 m high.

Projection: .12-.15 m at bottom.

Decoration: Projecting stones in central member, including one set at 45 degrees at southwest corner, which probably supported stucco sculptures, now fallen.

UPPER WALL ZONE

Height: 1.34 m (approx.); top of medial molding to bottom of cornice.

Stonework: Wall faced with 6 courses of roughly dressed, rectangular blocks, similar to those seen in lower walls.

Decoration: Projecting stones more or less centered between medial and cornice moldings. Probably used to support stucco sculptures, now fallen.

Other: Outset panel at southwest corner and similar outset panel about 6-7 m to north (see photo). Projecting stones in these panels, as in adjacent walls.

CORNICE

Form: Three members; projecting, more or less rectangular members top and bottom, with recessed central member.

Size: About 1.06 m overall. Lower and central members about .30 m high; upper member formed with three courses of stones, about .46 m high.

Projection: .10-.13 m at bottom.

Decoration: Projecting stones in central member same as in medial molding, probably used to support stucco sculptures.

ROOF STRUCTURE

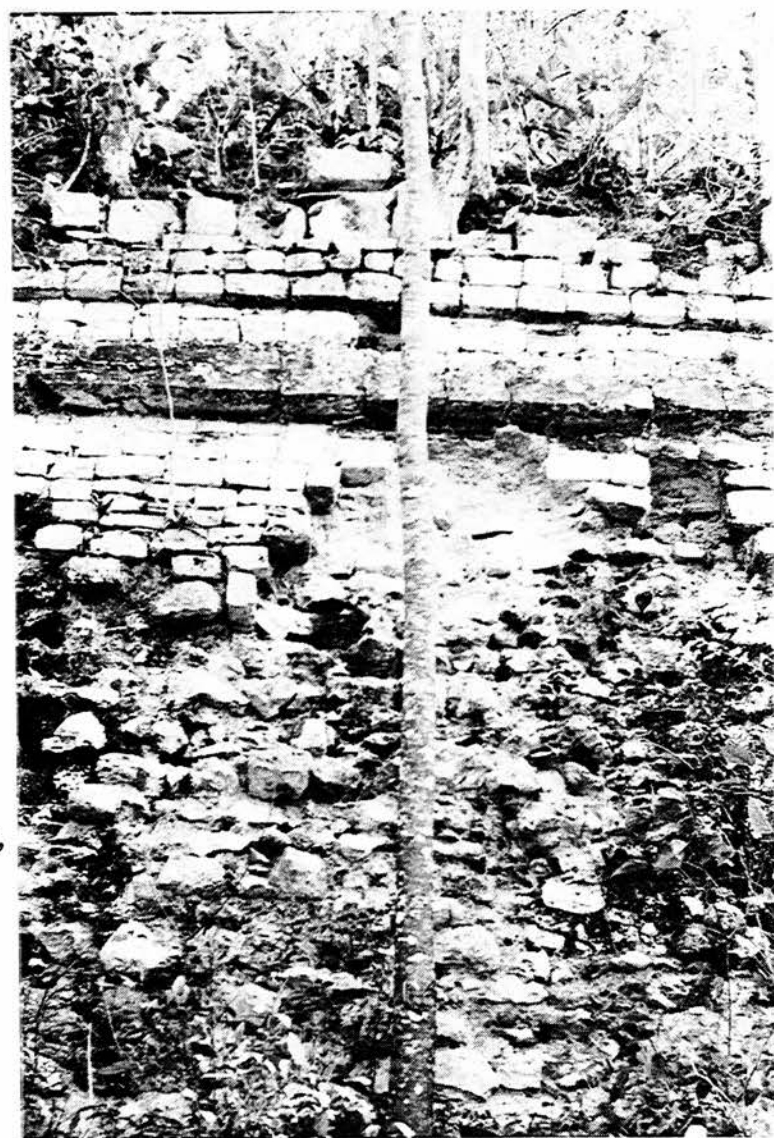
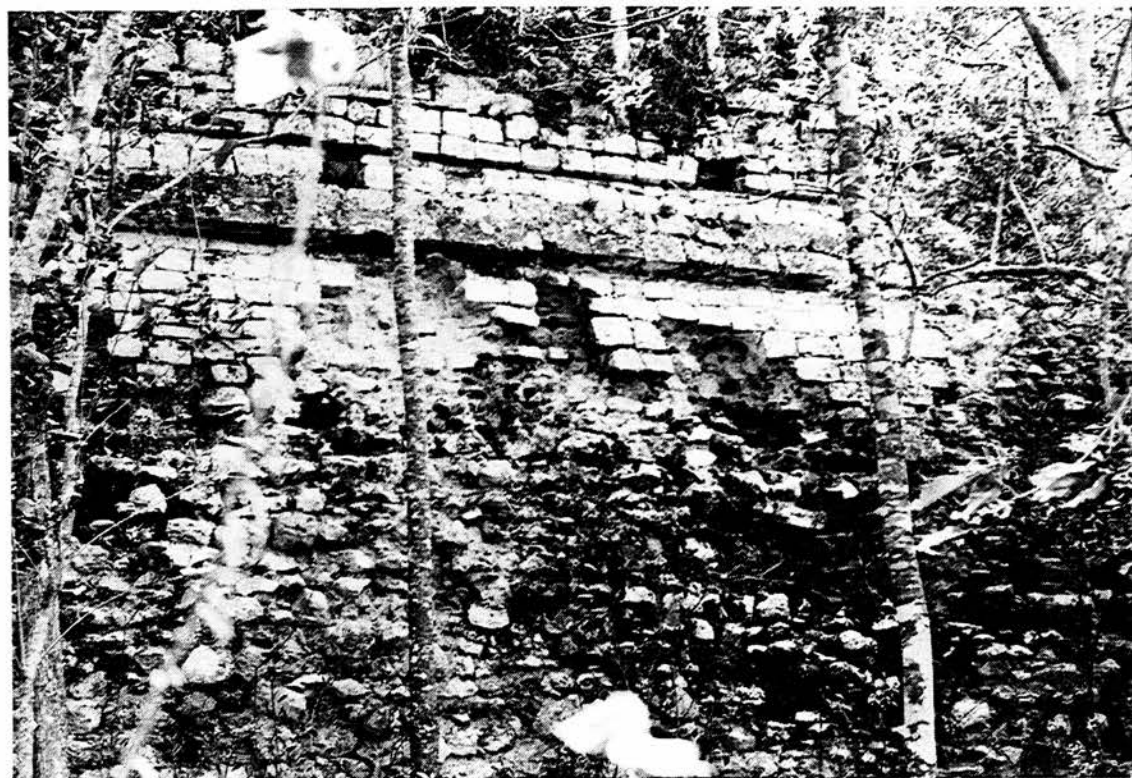
None.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

Early northeast Yucatan style ? *Early Period II*

COMMENTS

While exterior details of Structure 2 of Group B are similar to those of Structure 1 of same group, they are not identical, since there are no projecting stones in medial molding or upper wall zone of that portion of end wall of Structure 1 still intact. Stonework and vaults of both buildings are very similar, however, and I believe that both date from the same period. While I have no data suggesting any kind of specific dating for either Structure 1 or 2 of Group B, I believe they are early in relation to Structure 1 of Group A, the latter comparable to the Maya-Chichen (Pure Florescent) buildings at Chichen Itza which probably date to Late-Terminal Classic period.



*Ek Balam, Group A.
 (above) Stone facing of
 high platform. (right)
 Detail of cut stone facing,
 high platform.*



Ek Balam, Group A, Structure 1. Detail of vault



Ek Balam, Group A, Structure 1. Detail of vault



Ek Balam, Group A, Structure 1. Portion of main facade



Ek Balam, Group A, Structure 1. End wall of vault



Ek Balam, Group B, Structure 2. view of southwest corner



Ek Balam, Group B, Structure 2. Detail of west facade



Ek Balam, Group B, Structure 2. Detail of west facade, south end



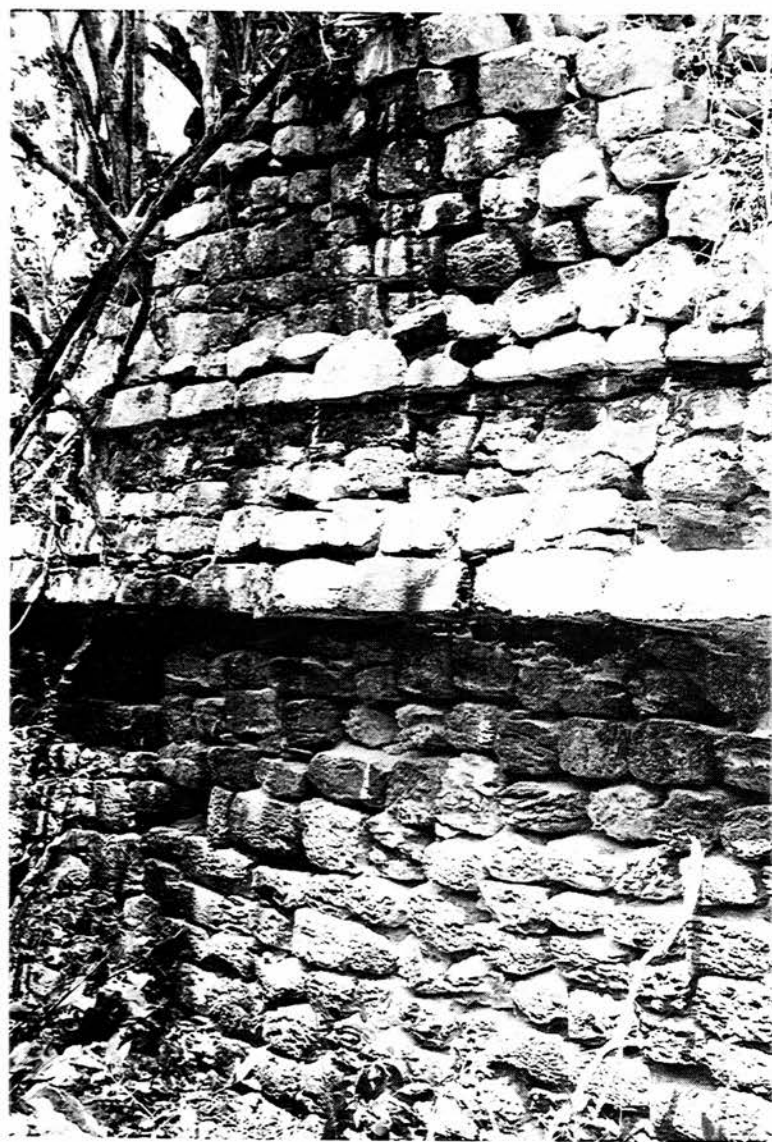
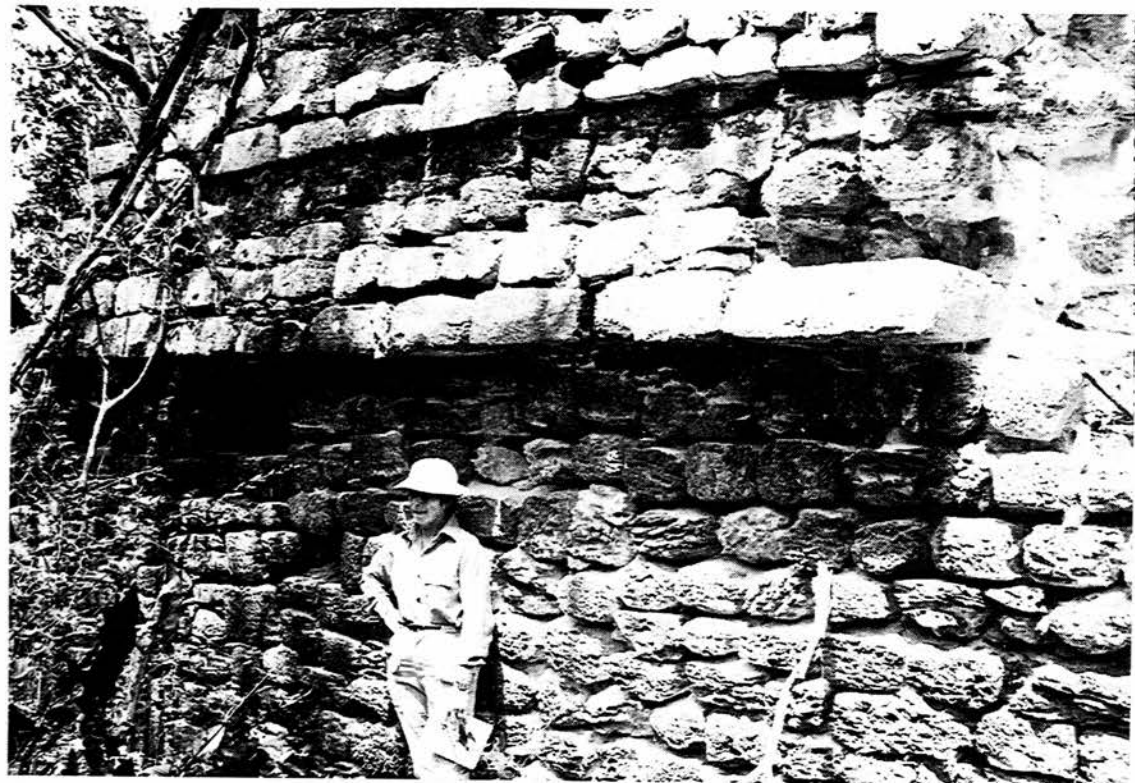
Ek Balam, Group B, Structure 2. Detail of west facade showing raised panel



Ek Balam, Group B, Structure 2. Southeast corner



Ek Balam, Group B, Structure 2. West facade, east end



*Ek Balam, Group B,
Structure 1. Portion of
south facade (above).
(right) Detail of medial
molding, south facade.*



Ek Bakam, Main plaza. Fragment of stone figure



Ek Balam, Main Plaza. Carved stone with hieroglyphs

A P P E N D I X

Ek Balam must have been a center of some importance judging from the size and extent of the remains, although comparatively late. The buildings are low and built of crudely dressed masonry. Carved or even cut stones are almost entirely wanting, and the walls seem to have been finished, for the most part, with stucco as at Tulum. The very low height of the corbeled arch, in the single chamber seen, strongly recalls the similar low arched chambers of the buildings along the East Coast, which are certainly of late origin having been occupied at the time of the Spanish Conquest. On architectural and stylistic grounds, it is more than probable that Ek Balam was a contemporary of Tulum and the other East Coast sites, and that it too was occupied until the early part of the sixteenth century.

One of the highest pyramids had a human figure made of stone and stucco on one side of a doorway leading to a chamber near the top. This was very grotesque, crudely executed and without aesthetic merit.

A large altar 7 feet long and 3 feet high, carved from a single block of stone, was found standing by the out-cropping of the native limestone from which it had been quarried. Its entire top had been hollowed out to the depth of 5 or 6 inches, leaving a rim 4 inches in thickness. The front is carved with a grotesque human face having large circles around the eyes, suggesting a Tlaloc head; the back and sides are plain, though dressed.

A single carved stela was found in a similar position, i.e., lying on the ground by a similar out-cropping of the limestone. This had a rounded top and a small simplified serpent with a plumed head-dress on the front. There were no glyphs on this monument and the back and sides are plain, though dressed.

Ek Balam was obviously a late provincial center, and its architecture and sculpture are such as might be expected in a Maya site of this last degenerate period in the northeastern corner of Yucatan.

Report by S.G. Morley, as found in Year Book #27, pp. 317-318, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1928.

1972-73 Annual Report

1972-73 Annual Report

1972-73 Annual Report

1972-73 Annual Report

1972-73 Annual Report

1972-73 Annual Report

1972-73 Annual Report

1972-73 Annual Report

1972-73 Annual Report

1972-73 Annual Report

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ARCHITECTURE AT EK BALAM

As noted several years ago by Ringle and Bey (1989), the public architecture at Ek Balam has largely collapsed but stylistically seems to represent a mix of Puuc traits with a local style ~~employing~~ ^{employing} overlapping more traditional Late Classic architectural, construction, and decorative features. The latter features have been described in some detail by E.W. Andrews IV (1965) in his discussion of Early Period ^{II} (Late Classic) architecture in the Northern Plains areas. Only certain aspects of the Puuc tradition are represented at Ek Balam where in Puuc-like wall facings and molding profiles are combined with slab-type vaulting as seen in the south building on top of Structure 2. Curiously, several Puuc-like decorative forms were found in the debris on top of Structure 10, including banded colonnettes, and large stones from medial moldings with Puuc-like fluting on their beveled faces. I believe there were also several carved mask elements associated with the fluted molding stones whose original position is unknown.

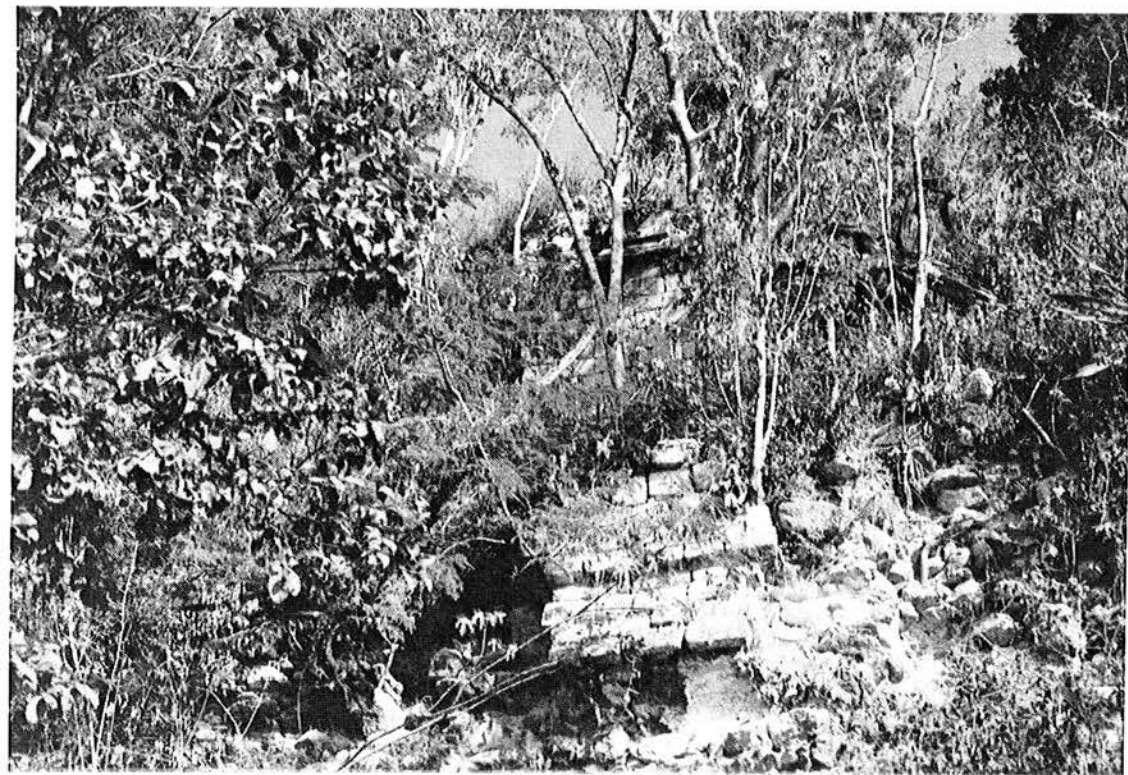
In contrast, the basic local style includes buildings such as those seen on Structures 10 and 17 which employ very thick block walls and rough slab vaults. Exteriors carried stucco facade decoration supported on stone armatures. Ringle and Bey (1989) report that painted stucco fragments were found on Structure 1 and the numerous projecting stones seen in the upper facades of the buildings on Structure 17 probably served as armatures for stucco decorative elements, including masks. Ringle and Bey (ibid) also note that Structures 10 and 17 employed somewhat different masonry techniques for facing blocks of platforms, those of Structure 17 being smaller and better cut than those seen in Structure 10. I would ~~attribute~~ ^{interpret} this as a temporal difference, as Structure 10 seems earlier than Structure 17 and both seem earlier than Structure 2, which employs Puuc-like, veneer-type wall facings for both walls and moldings of substructure and superstructures. As is characteristic of all Maya buildings and substructures, all exposed masonry surfaces, both interior and exterior, were covered with plaster, traces of which can still be seen in several locations.



EK BALAM, Structure 1. View from plaza



EK BALAM, Structure 1. South side



EK BALAM - Structure 2. Platform and upper building from rear



EK BALAM, Structure 2. Portion of front wall.

STRUCTURE 10

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structure 10 consists of a large, rectangular platform with sloping sides which supports several superstructures, including a small one-room vaulted masonry building situated near the western edge of the platform. In addition, there are two good sized rectangular platforms of uncertain height adjacent to the vaulted building, together with a very small square platform near the head of the stairway on the west side (see plan).

The main platform, which is about 5 1/2 meters high, has rounded corners and sloping sides faced with medium to large-sized blocks and carries a heavy, single-member molding along its upper edge. A broad stairway on the west side of the platform gives access to the upper level from the main plaza level.

This platform has several rather curious details as outlined below.

1. The west face of the platform is divided into five sections. The southwest and northwest corners, for a distance of about 6 meters, have a slight inward slope and are faced with large dressed blocks as described above. On both sides of these corner sections, however, are longer sections with a considerable inward slope that have no finished face. Near the center is a projecting stairway of uncertain width which gives access to the top of the platform (see photos for details of west edge of platform).

2. A low platform, extending westward into the main plaza, is attached to Structure 10 at its southwest corner (see plan). A second (and lower) platform extends to the north from the main platform, and has a broad stairway on its north side.

3. A low and rather narrow platform extends a short distance to the northeast on a diagonal from the northeast corner of the main platform. This platform has a projecting stairway at its northern end as shown in the plan.

SITE: EK BALAM NUMBER: 16Qd(9): 17 DATE: 12/16/94

STRUCTURE 10 (Superstructure near west side of upper level of Structure 10)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Small, one-room vaulted masonry building with single doorway on west side. This building stands near western edge of large, rectangular substructure with slightly sloping sides (see plan).

EXTERIOR DETAILS:

ORIENTATION: North-south axis of main platform oriented 10-11 degrees east of north at north end.

BASE MOLDING: None. Building appears to stand directly on top of main platform.

LOWER WALL ZONE:

Height: Uncertain, but at least 1.90 m.

Stonework: Walls faced with 7-8 courses of square to rectangular blocks, moderately well finished. Set in uneven courses.

Thickness: Front wall 1.29 m thick at doorjamb.

Decoration: None

DOORWAYS:

Shape: Rectangular

Jambs: Faced with medium sized blocks, similar to those used for wall facings.

Lintels: Stone lintel, 0.38 m thick.

MEDIAL MOLDING: No data; fallen.

UPPER WALL ZONE: No data; fallen.

CORNICE: No data; fallen. (See note below re: molding stones found in debris)

ROOF STRUCTURE: None

OTHER: Low platform in front of doorway. See plan.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Late/Terminal Classic (Early Period II)

COMMENTS: I believe that this is the small building seen by Morley in 1928 and described by him as similar to buildings found on the East Coast. While this building is indeed small, and has only one small room, with a low vault and a recessed lintel, all of which are East Coast traits, it has fairly good stonework (better than that seen in two superstructures of Structure 17 at Ek Balam), and vault is faced with slabs with beveled faces, as in superstructures of Structures 17.

According to Ringle and Bey (1989), some Formative sherds were found in a test pit in the substructure of Structure 10, but enough Cepech sherds to place it in the Terminal Classic.

It should also be noted that several Puuc-like spools were found in the debris near the vaulted masonry building (see photo) and a number of large molding stones with beveled and fluted faces were stacked up on the south side of the southern platform adjacent to the vaulted building. Unfortunately, I do not know the original location of these stones. All of the above supports a Late or Terminal Classic date for the small, vaulted superstructure of Structure 10 rather than a Postclassic date as suggested by Morley.

SITE: EK BALAM NUMBER: 16Qd(9):17

DATE: 12/16/94

STRUCTURE 10 (One-room superstructure)

INTERIOR DETAILS: Room 1

DIMENSIONS:

Length: 2.80 m

Width: 1.06 m

WALLS

Height: 1.70 m , floor to springline

Thickness: 1.29 m thick at doorjamb

Stonework: Walls faced with medium sized, square to rectangular blocks, only moderately well finished

Doorways: Doorway in east wall is 0.63 m wide. 1.52 m floor to bottom of lintel

Rod Sockets: None

Cordholders: None

Rings: None

Wall Openings: None

Platforms: Low platform 0.10 m high, centered against back wall. Platform is 1.52 m long, 0.63 m deep. Low step in front, 0.48 m long, 0.25 m deep.

VAULTS:

Springline Offset: About 0.075-0.101 m

Height: Uncertain; only 3 courses in place

Form: Vault faces had straight sides

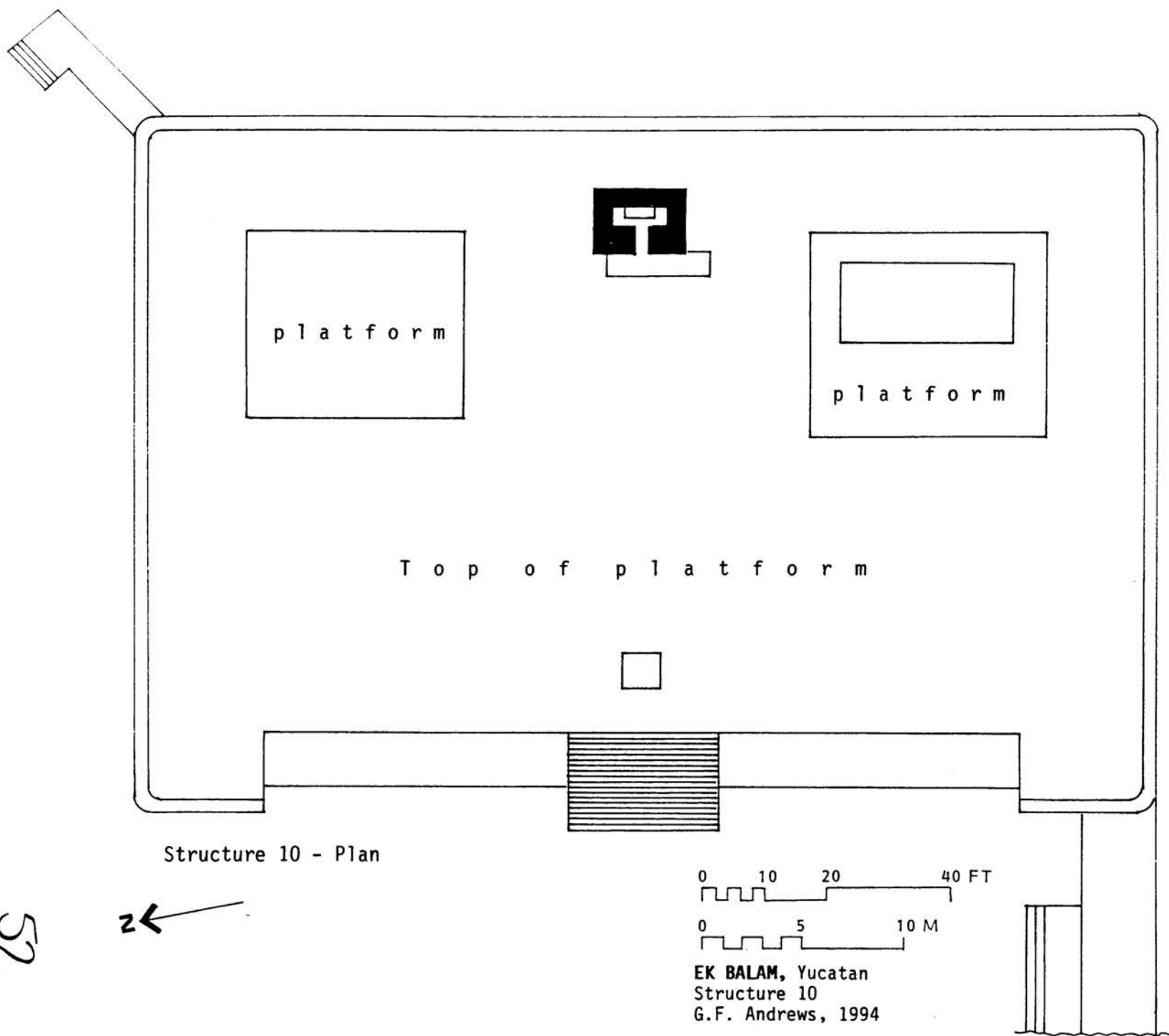
Stonework: Vault faced with large slabs with beveled faces. Stonework in vault is rather crude but still better than stonework seen in vaults of superstructures of Structure 17.

Capstones: No data; fallen

Crossbeams: No data

Other: End walls of vault slope inward

OBSERVATIONS: While vault of this building is low and somewhat roughly made, it is not really like vaults of postclassic buildings on the East Coast which are really crude and faced with very roughly dressed slabs, as opposed to better cut slabs with beveled faces seen here.





EK BALAM, Structure 10. Platform and stairway, west side



EK BALAM, Structure 10. West facade of superstructure

STRUCTURE 17

Structure 17 is the same complex of platforms and buildings that I earlier called Structures 1 and 2 of Group B (Andrews, 1983). Following its recent excavation, Structure 17 can now be seen to consist of four basic components:

1. A long platform with rounded corners with main axis running north-south. This platform is about 2.44 m high and has a heavy projecting molding along its upper edge.

2. Two smaller platforms, each about 2 meters high, also with rounded corners and projecting molding on top, arranged end to end on the lower platform. These platforms are separated by a narrow alleyway about one meter wide.

3. Two broad projecting stairways, with ramps along both edges, which give access to vaulted masonry buildings standing on upper platforms. Both stairways are on east side and stand on low projecting platforms attached to lower round-cornered platform.

4. Two buildings, arranged end to end, supported on upper platforms as described above. Both have two pairs of rooms with doorways on east side. All rooms still filled with debris from fallen vaults.

While the basic composition of this complex is symmetrical, it should be noted that the south stairway leading to the South Building is not as wide as the north stairway and both the stairways and buildings above are not parallel. The south building is oriented at degrees east of north (magnetic) while the north building is oriented at degrees east of north. Orientation of projecting stairways is similarly skewed. All bearings taken with a hand-held Brunton compass.

While pairs of buildings are not unknown from other sites and other regions, the particular arrangement seen here is very rare and it is noteworthy that the now-fallen buildings on the upper level of Structure 2 also appear to have been a pair, arranged end to end and facing east as do the North and South buildings of Structure 17. It is also noteworthy that there are a pair of platforms on top of the main platform of Structure 10, although in this case there is a small vaulted masonry building centered between the two platforms.

At the present time I would hesitate to venture any interpretation of the function(s) of Structure 17, although in many respects its twin buildings fall into the general category of "palace" type buildings and may well have served as residences for high ranking members of the elite class at Ek Balam.

SITE: EK BALAM **NUMBER:** 16Qd(9): 17 **DATE:** 12/16/94

STRUCTURE 17

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Two end to end buildings standing on individual platforms with rounded corners which in turn stand on a single long platform, also with rounded corners, supporting upper platforms and buildings. Projecting stairways with ramps along both edges on east side.

ORIENTATION: South building, front wall, left to right 8.5 degrees.

EXTERIOR DETAILS: Details below are for main (east) facade of south building.

BASE MOLDING:

Form: Single member rectangular base molding

Size: 0.431-0.508 m high. Varies slightly

Projection: About 0.05 m at top

LOWER WALL ZONE:

Height: 2.17 m top of base to bottom of medial molding.

Stonework: Walls faced with 10-11 courses of medium-sized square to rectangular blocks only roughly dressed. Much chinking in joints.

Thickness: Front wall 1.73 m thick at doorjamb

Decoration: 3 rings at both sides on all 4 corners. See details.

DOORWAYS:

Shape: Rectangular

Jambs: Finished with rectangular blocks, same as wall stones.

Lintels: Fallen; no details

MEDIAL MOLDING:

Form: 3 members. Slightly sloping top and bottom members; recessed central member

Size: Overall height 1.16 m

Projection: 0.263 to 0.276 to bottom

Decoration: None on this side

UPPER WALL ZONE:

Height: 2.16 m bottom of cornice to bottom of medial molding.

Stonework: Walls faced with courses of roughly dressed blocks, same size as lower walls

Decoration: Projecting stones in rear wall at center of medial molding and cornice molding with others about midway between medial molding and cornice.

Other: Upper wall zone mostly fallen on front (east) side. Details of upper wall are from rear wall.

CORNICE:

Form: 3 member, similar to medial molding

Size: Uncertain. Too high to measure. Seems slightly smaller than medial molding.

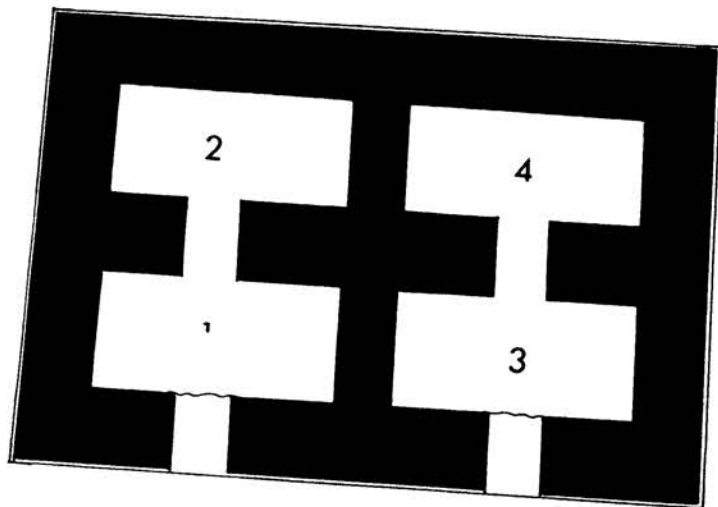
Projection: About 0.15 to 0.175 m at bottom

Decoration: Projecting stones in central member which may have supported stucco sculpture.

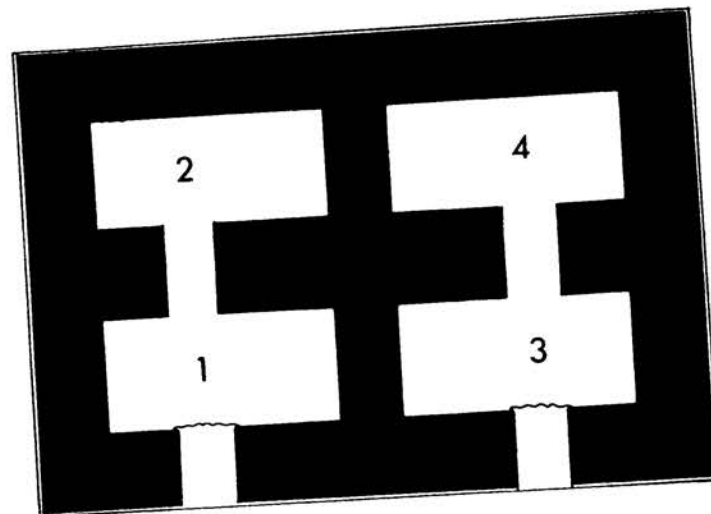
ROOF STRUCTURE: None

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Early Period II as proposed by Willys Andrews IV (1965) for Northern Plains Area but would probably be classified as Early Oxkintok or Proto Puuc style if found in Puuc region.

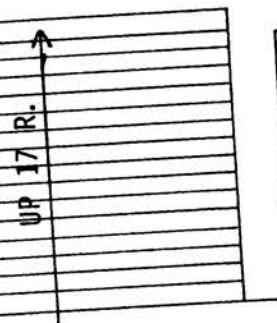
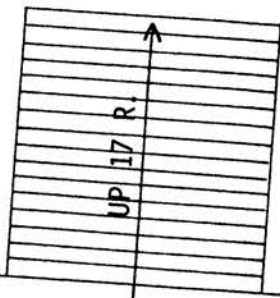
COMMENTS: All exterior details of north building of Structure 17 are practically identical to those seen in South Building, including sets of three stone rings at all corners and projecting stones in medial and cornice moldings, as well as in upper wall zone.



SOUTH BUILDING



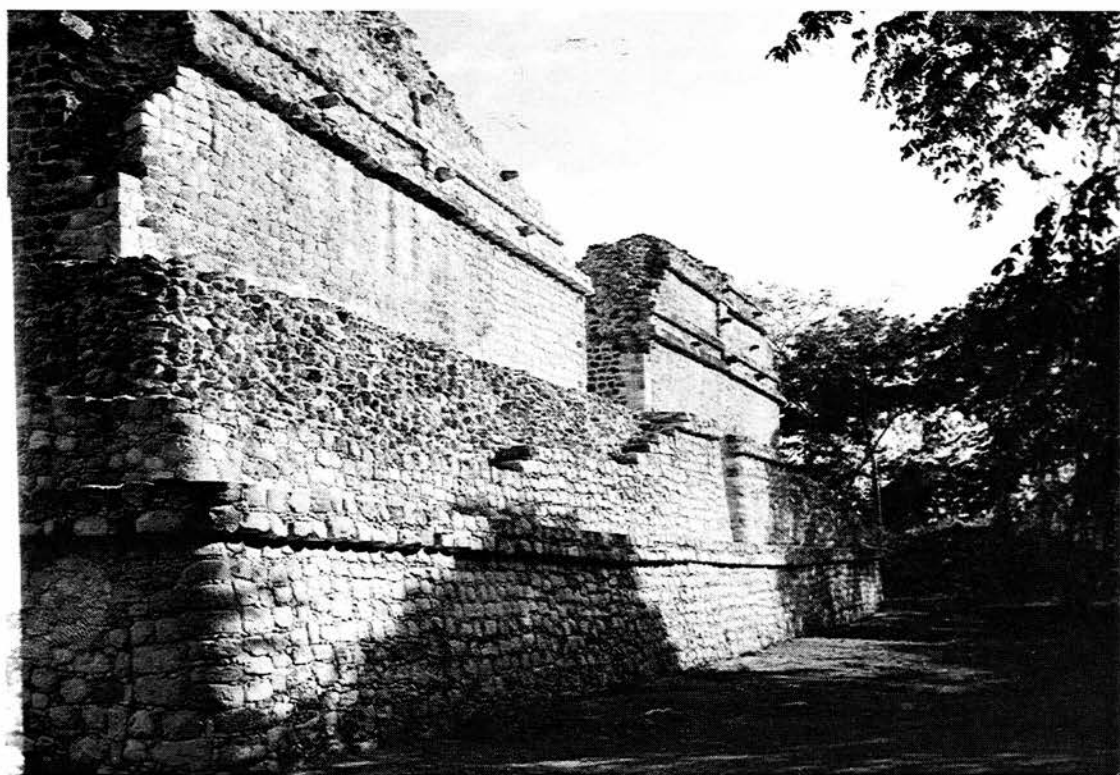
NORTH BUILDING



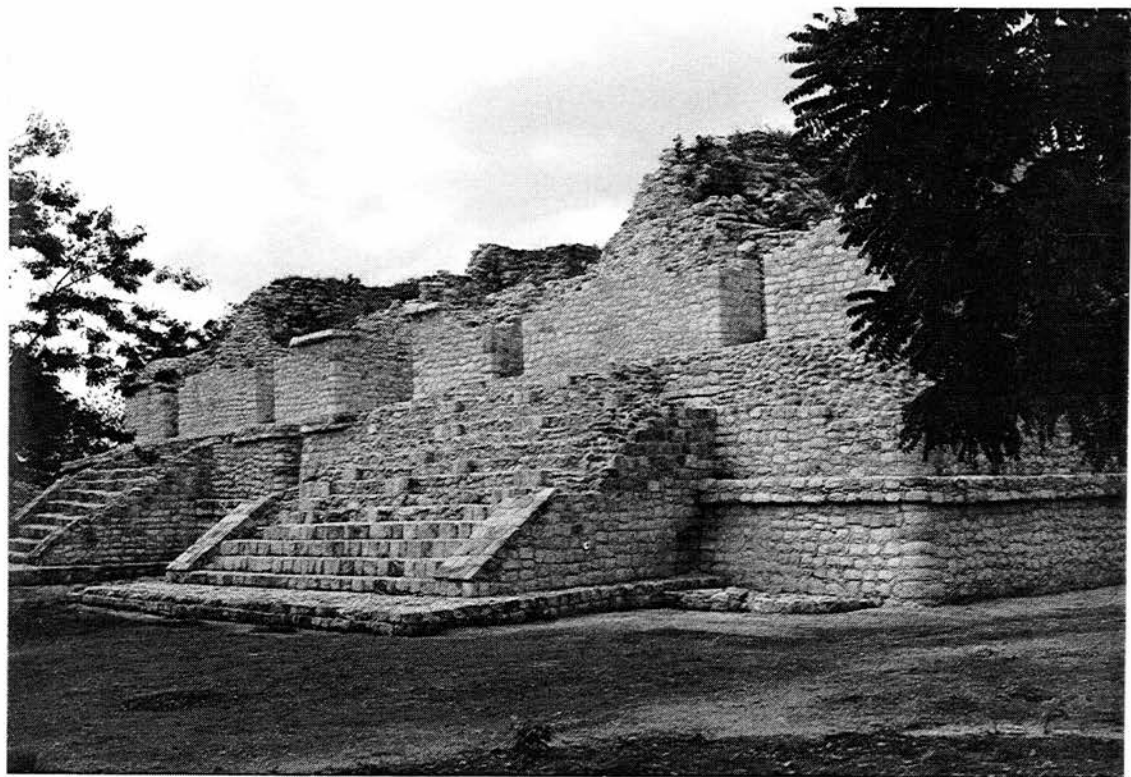
STRUCTURE 17 - PLAN



EK BALAM, Structure 17. Entry tyhrough enclosing wall



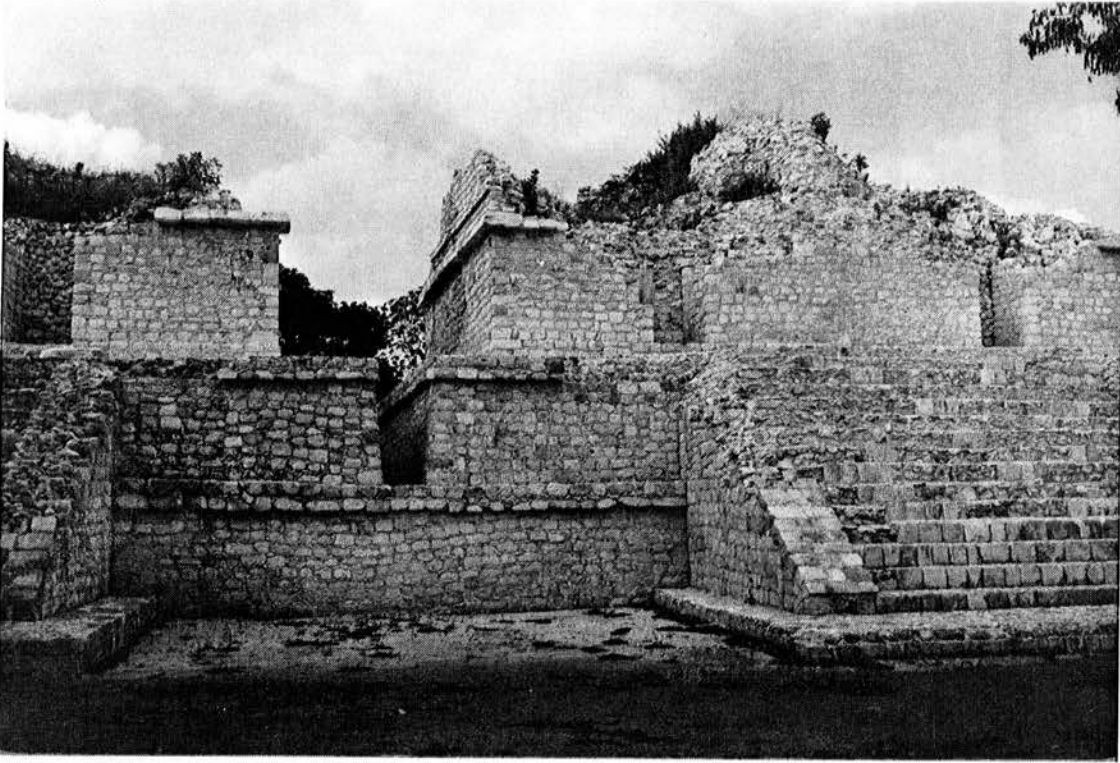
EK BALAM, Structure 17. View of rear, locking southeast



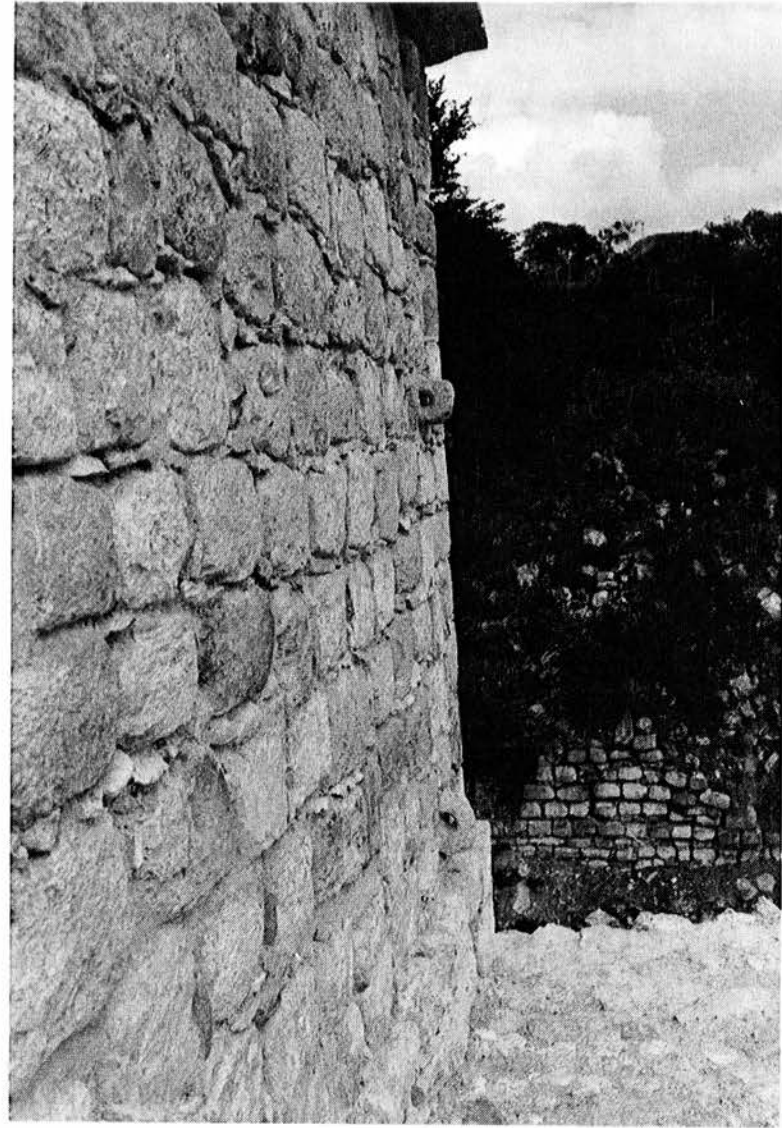
EK BALAM, Structure 17. View looking southwest



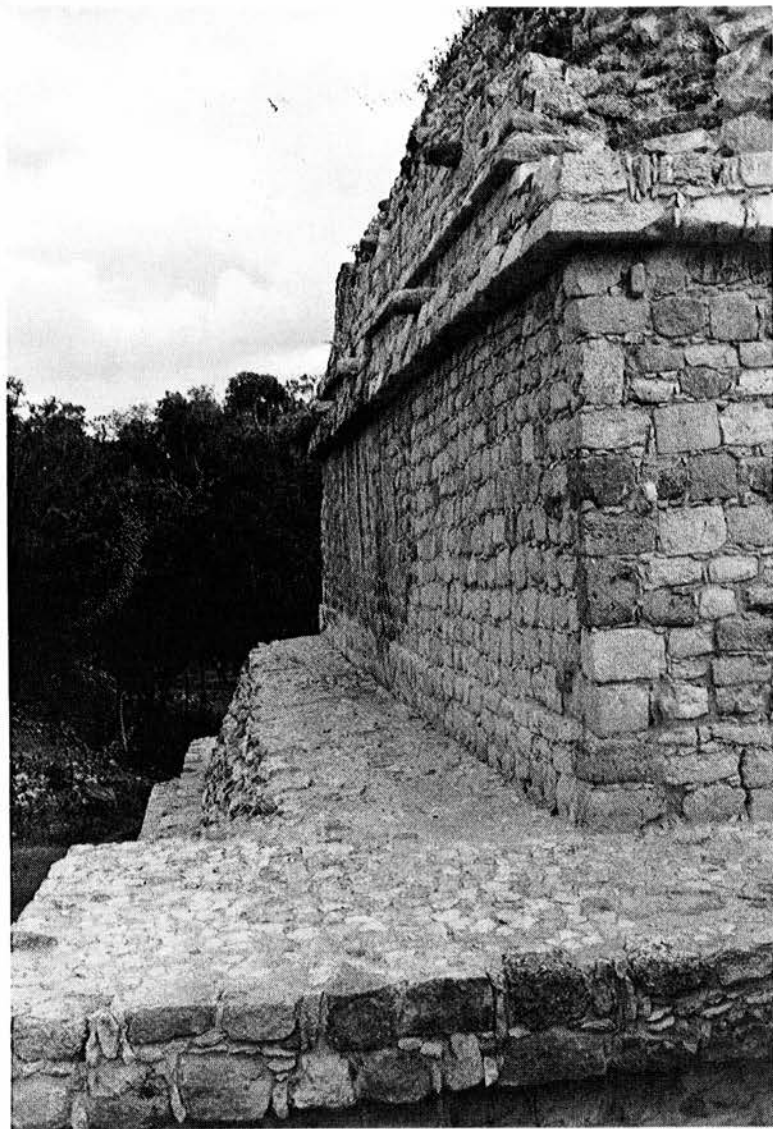
EK BALAM, Structure 17. North Building, east side



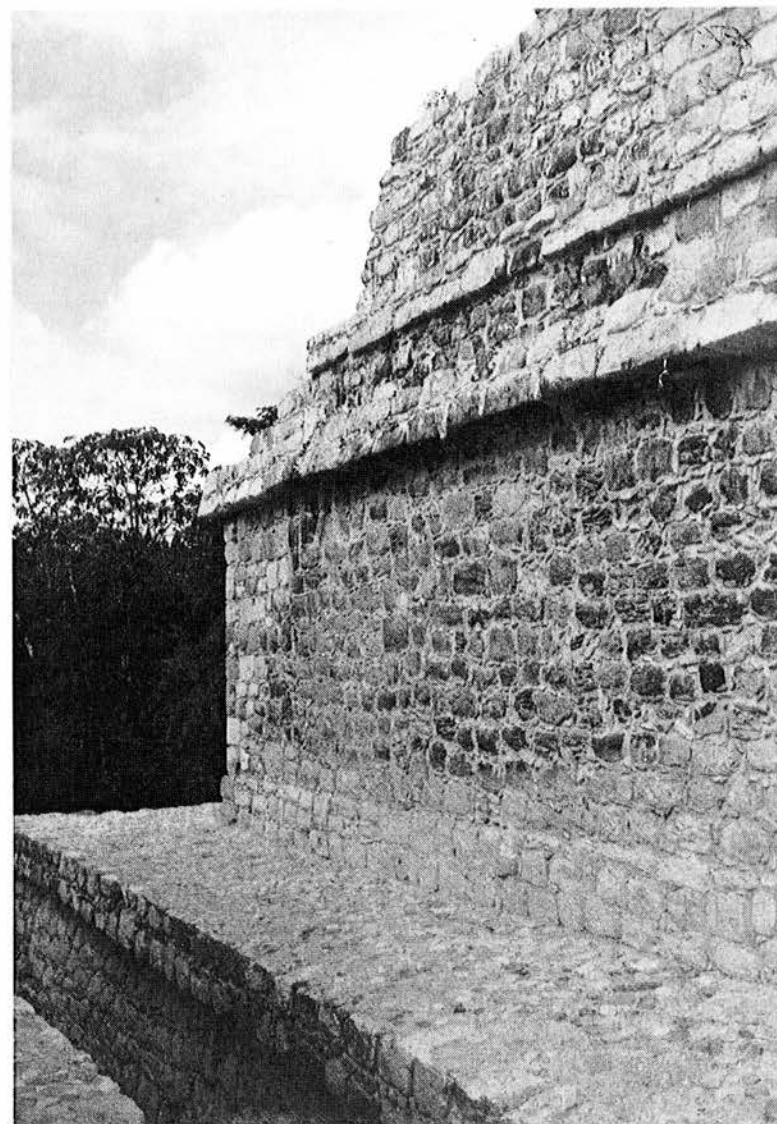
EK BALAM, Structure 17. North Building and stairway



EK BALAM, Structure 17. Stone rings at corner



EK BALAM, Structure 17. Rear wall, North Building

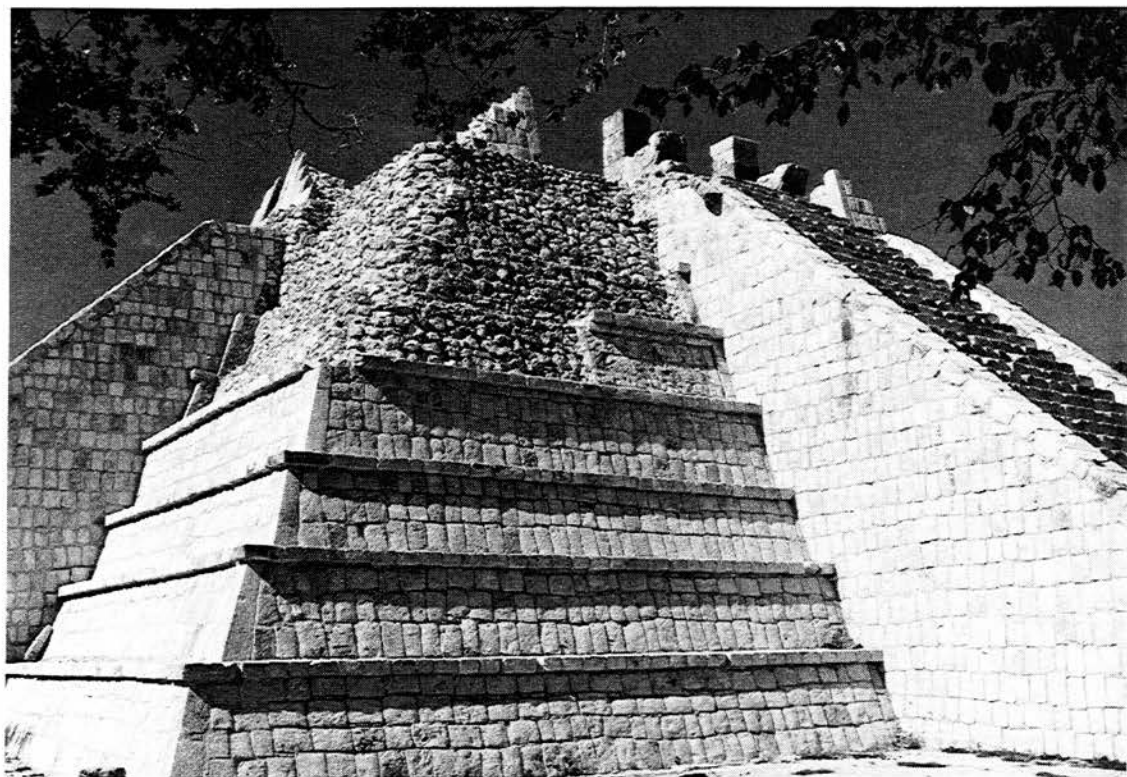


EK BALAM, Structure 17. Detail of rear wall

CHICHEN ITZA



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C1. Pyramid and stairway



CHICHEN ITZA, Osario (Structure 3C1). Corner of stepped platform & stairways

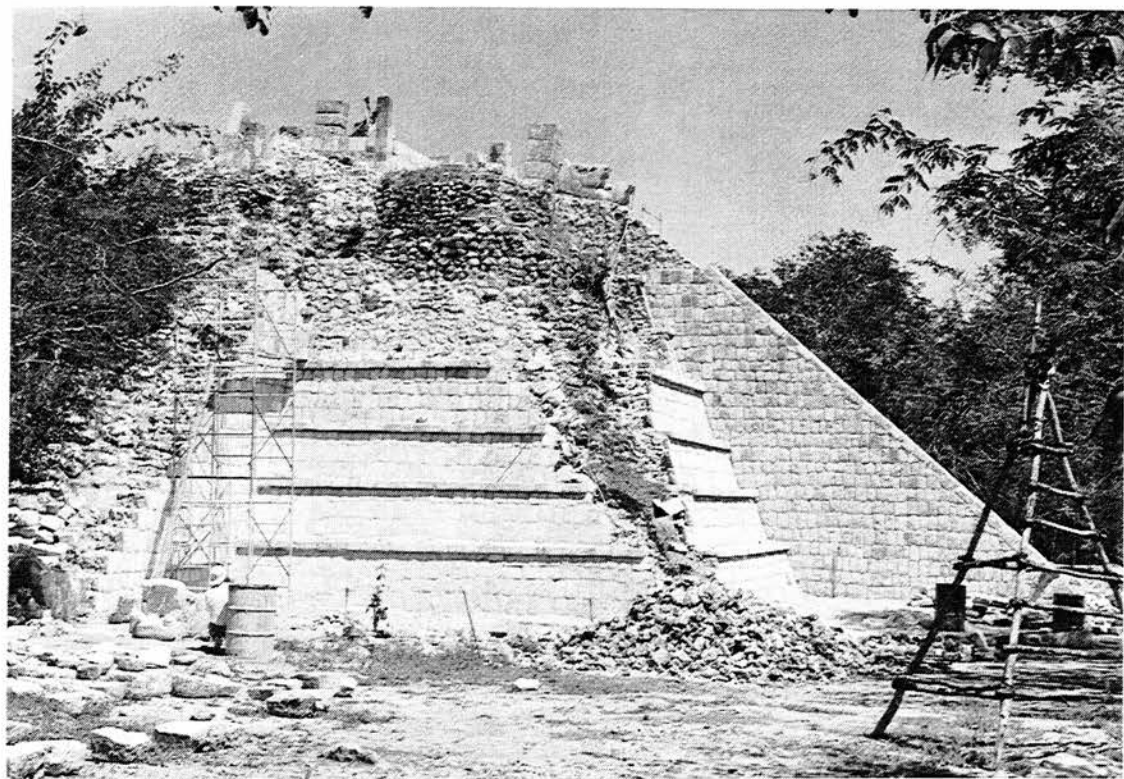


CHICHEN ITZA, Str. 3C1

*Detail of corner masks
from upper facade.*



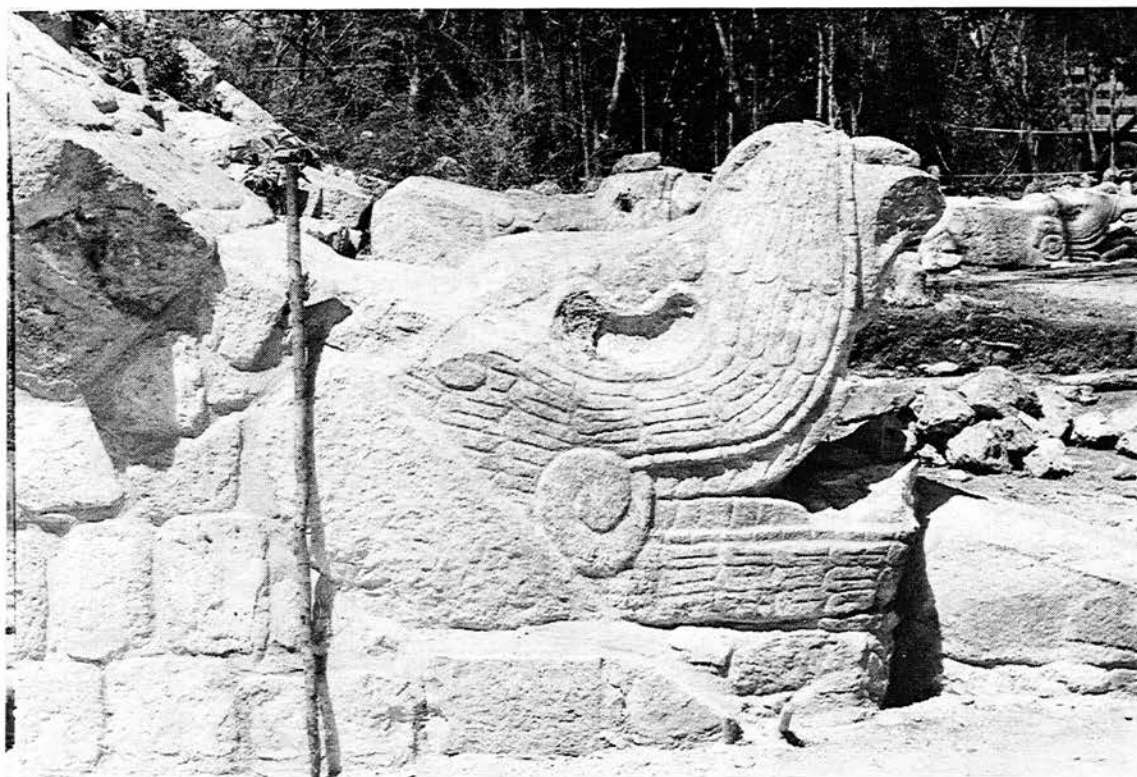
CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C1. East side



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C1. Pyramid and stairway after recent excavation



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C1. Detail of serpent head at base east stairway



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C1. Detail of serpent head at base of east stairway



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C1. View of east side showing ramps & serpents



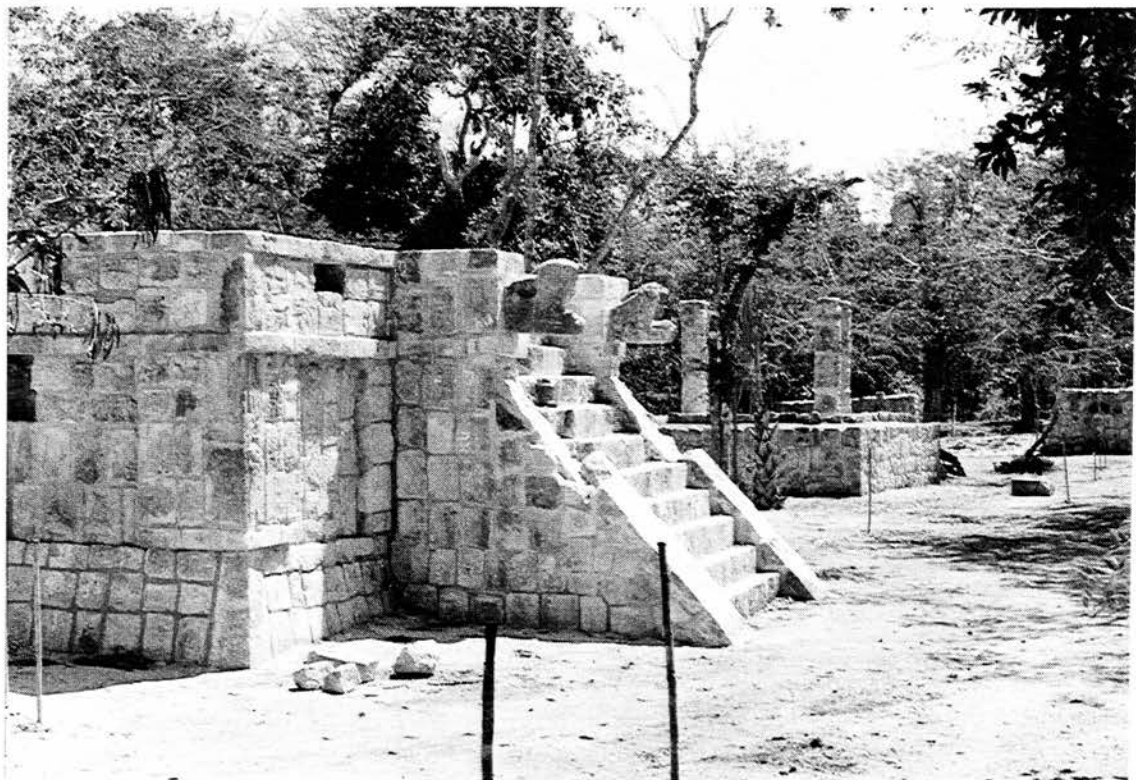
CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C1. Detail of ramps and serpent heads at base



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C3. Detail of sculptured panels



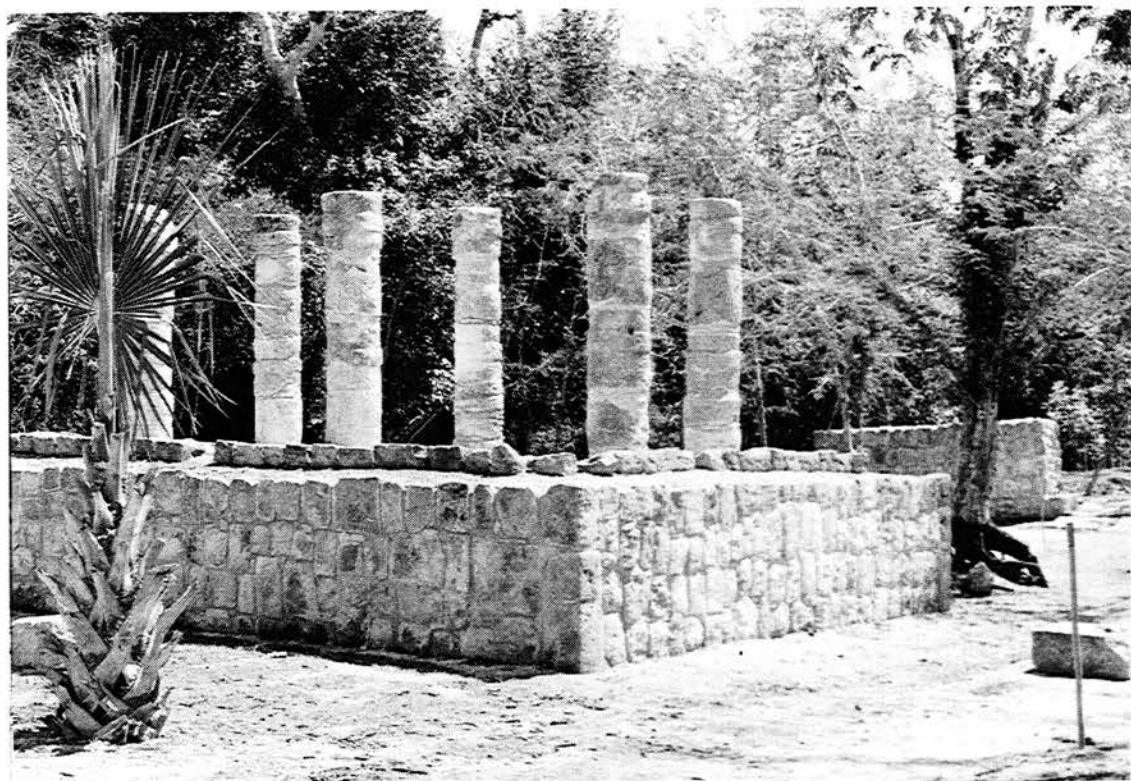
CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C3. Detail of sculptured panels



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C3 (Venus Platform).



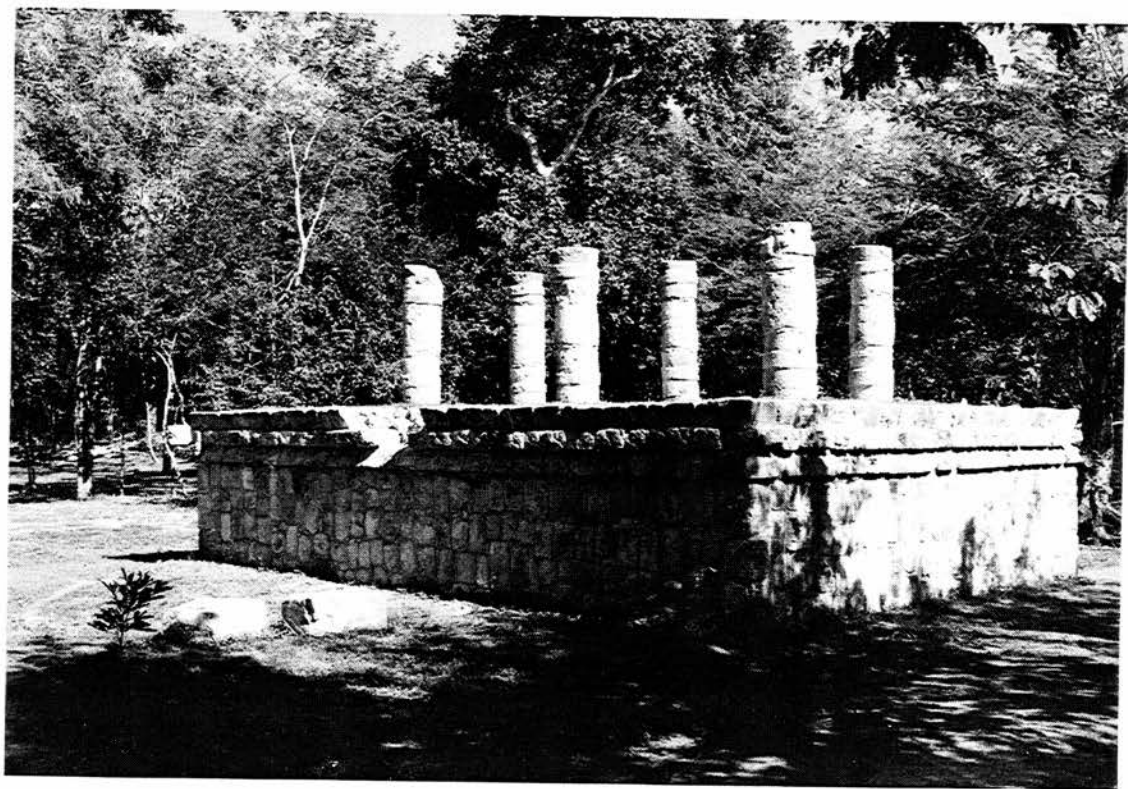
CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C3. Detail showing ramps with serpent heads



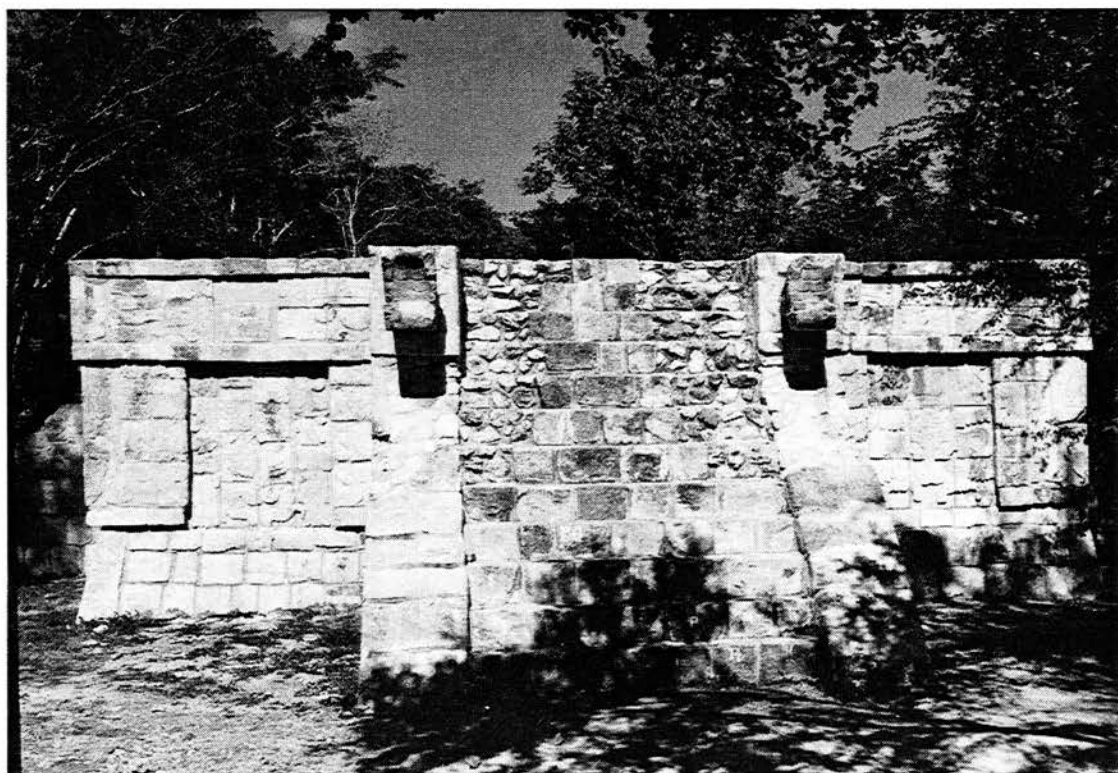
CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C4. View showing platform and columns.



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3C4. Detail of columns, showing spools.



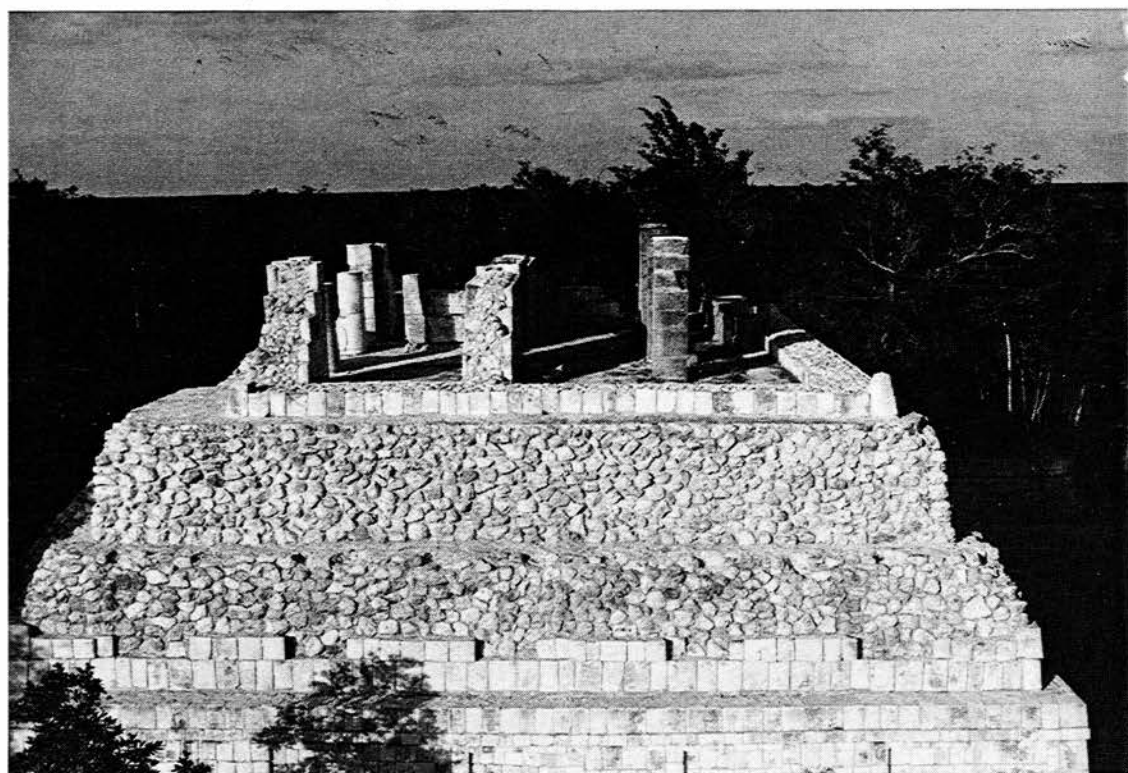
CHICHEN ITZA, Osario Group. Platform with banded columns



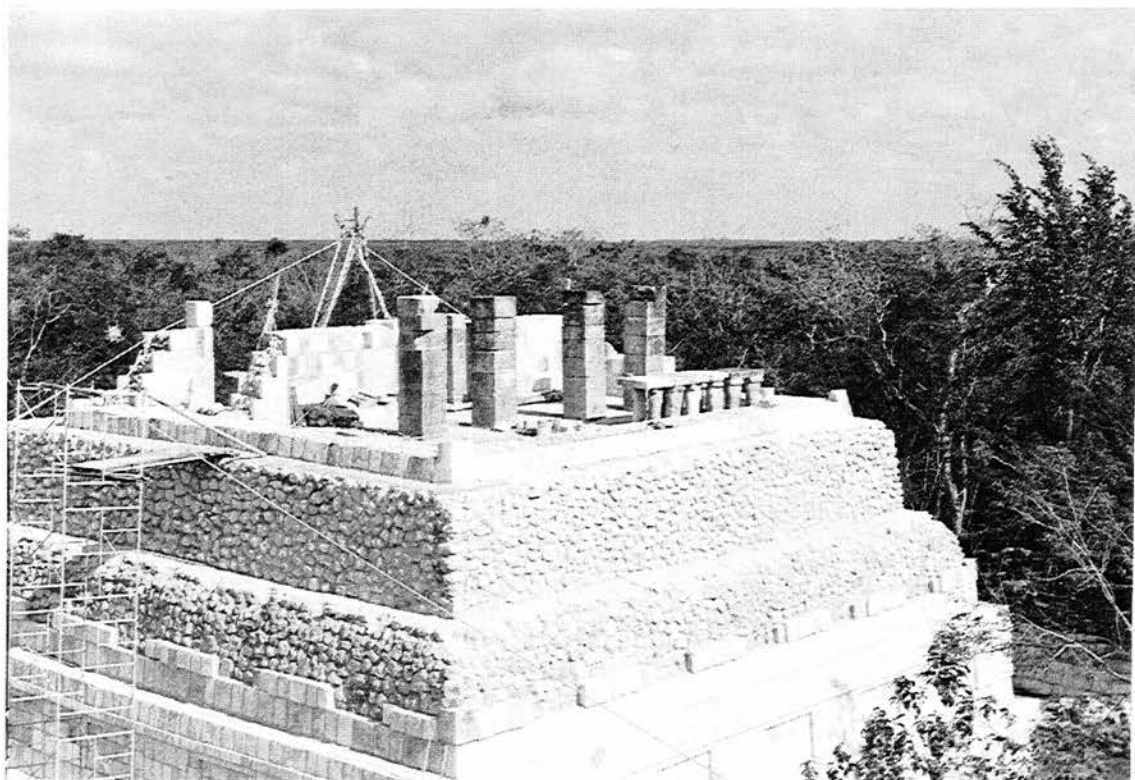
CHICHEN ITZA, Osario Group, Venus platform.



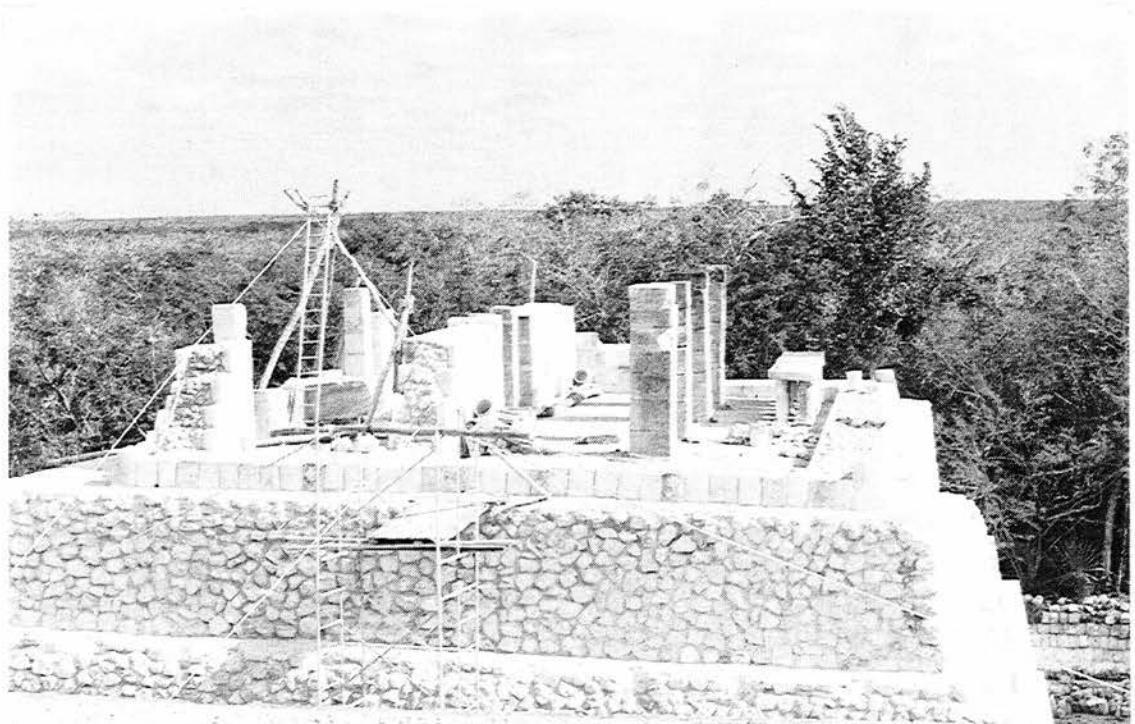
CHICHEN ITZA, Temple of the Big Tables (Structure 2D7.



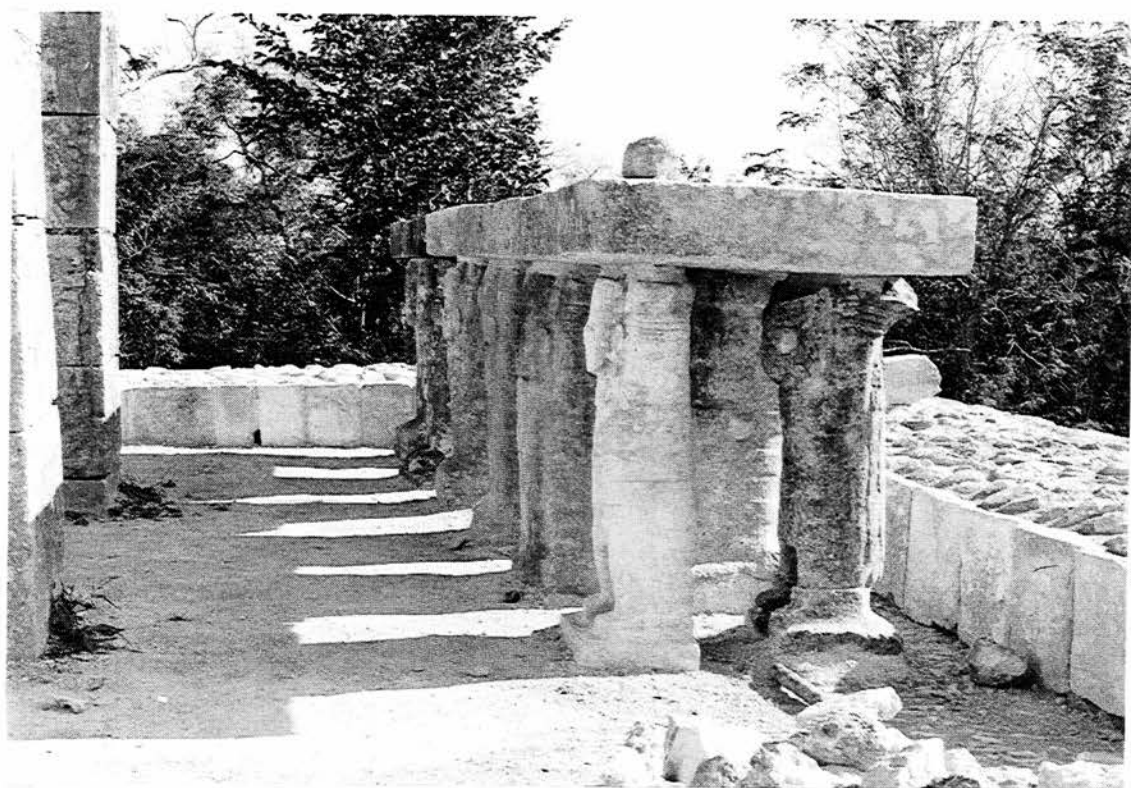
CHICHEN ITZA, Temple of the Big Tables (Structure 2D7) as seen from Temple of the Warriors.



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 2D7 (Temple of the Big Tables).



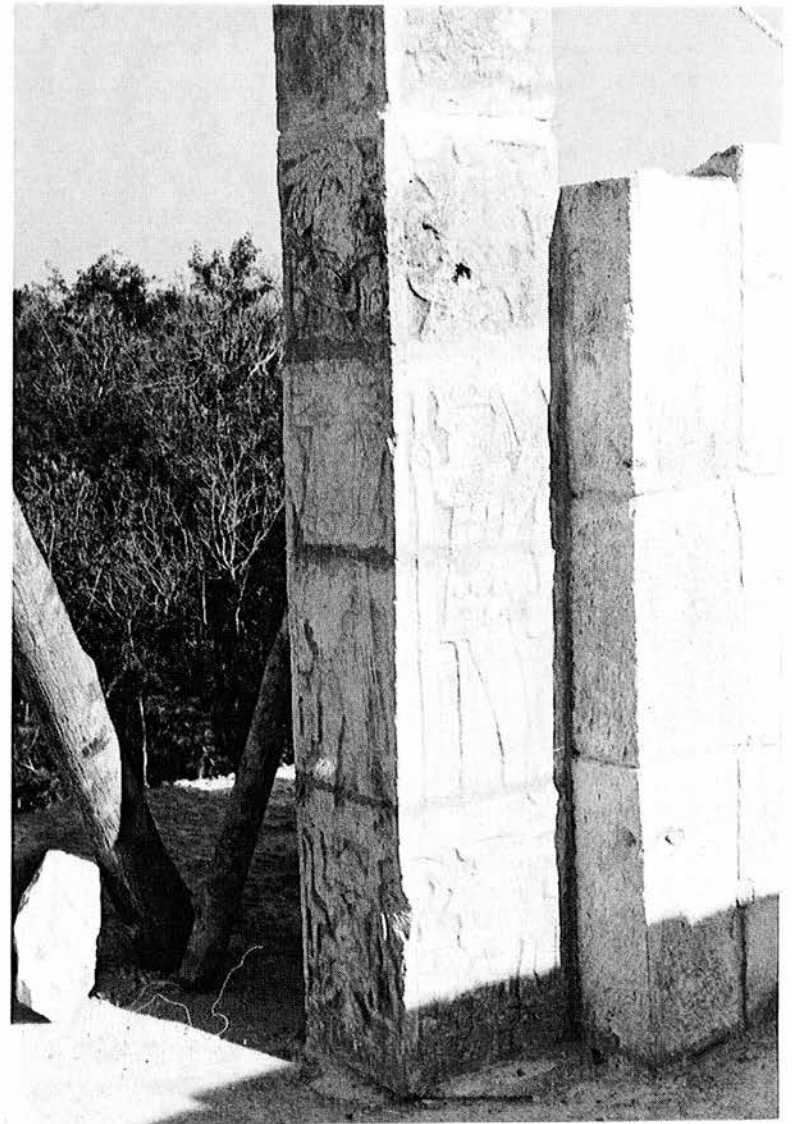
CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 2D7 (Temple of the Big Tables)



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 2D7 (Temple of the Big Tables). Detail of tables



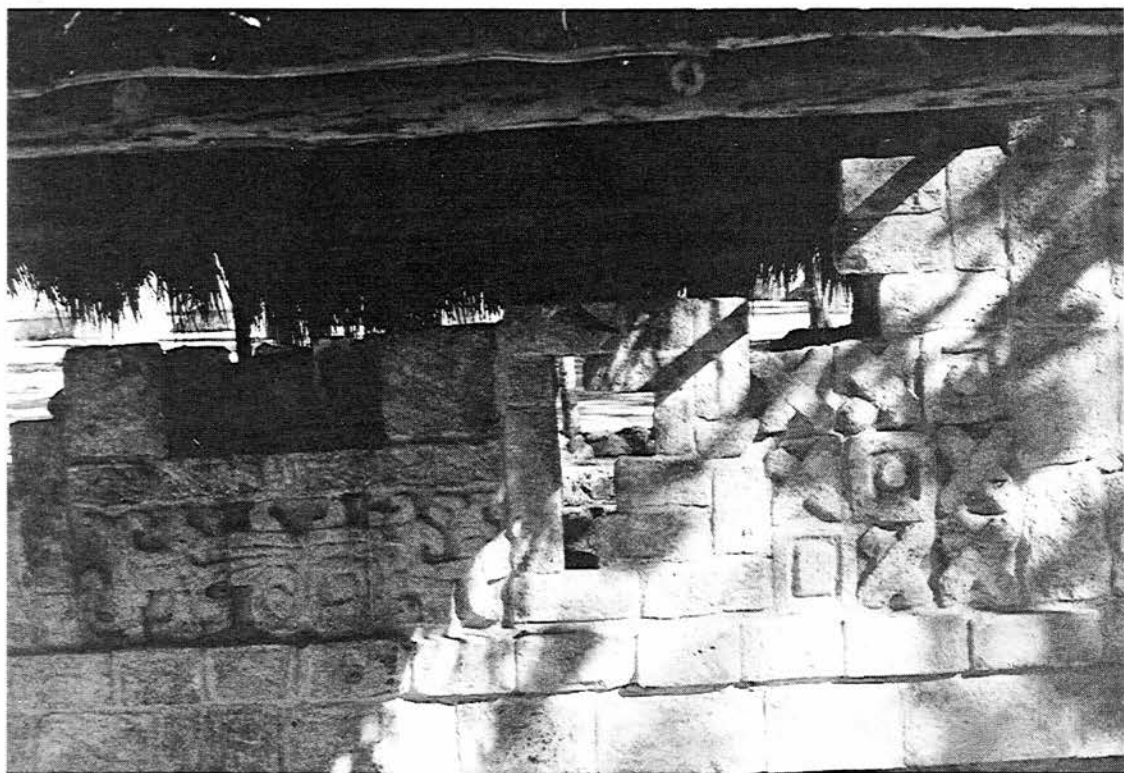
CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 2D7 (Temp. Big Tables)



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 2D7 (Temple Big Tables)



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure



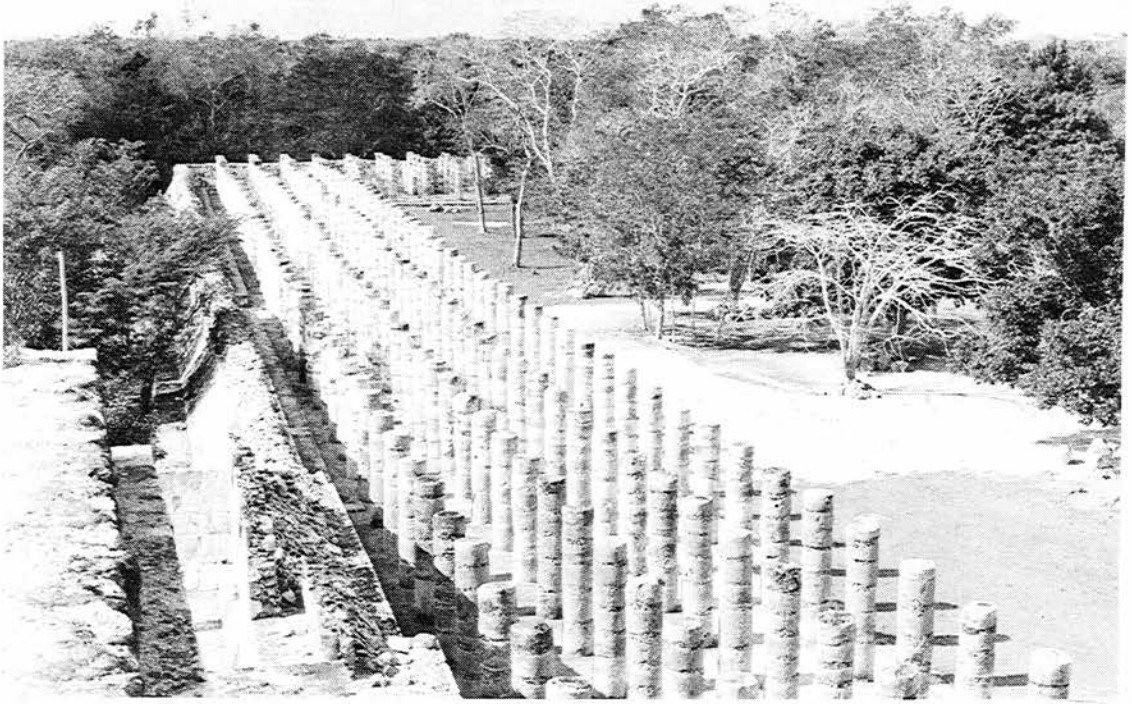
CHICHEN ITZA, Structure . Detail of portion of upper facade.



CHICHEN ITZA, Detail of sculptured column



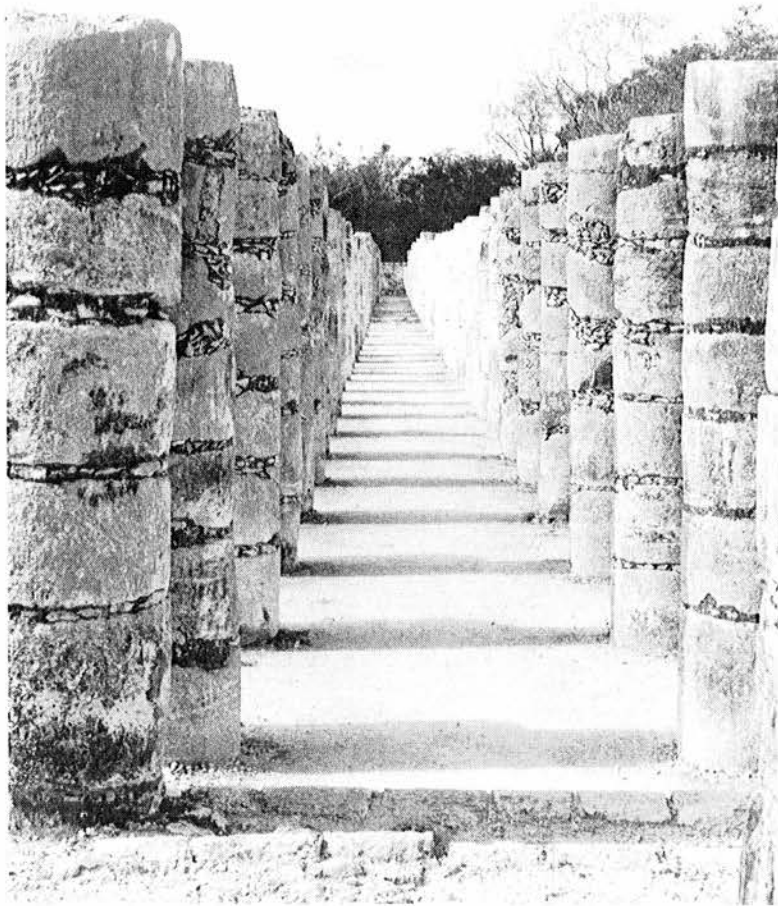
CHICHEN ITZA, detail of sculptured column



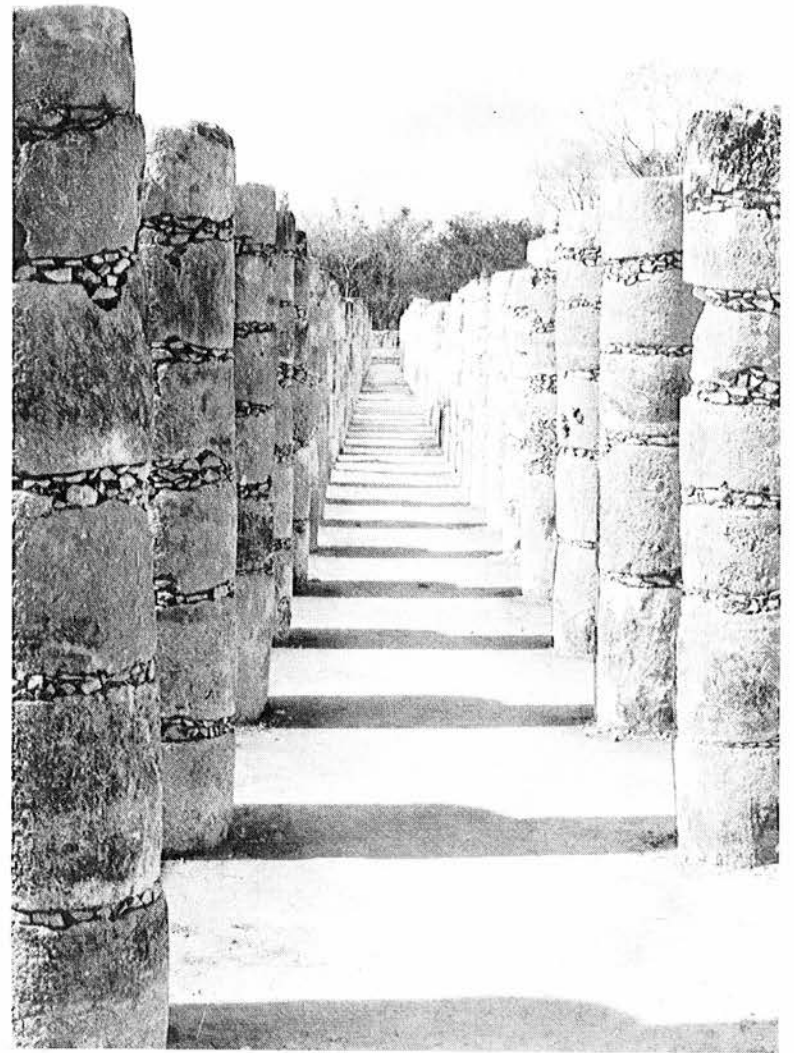
CHICHEN ITZA, Court of Thousand Columns. View of west colonnade.



CHICHEN ITZA, The Castillo. View from Temple of the Warriors



CHICHEN ITZA, West Colonnade, Court 1,000 Cols.



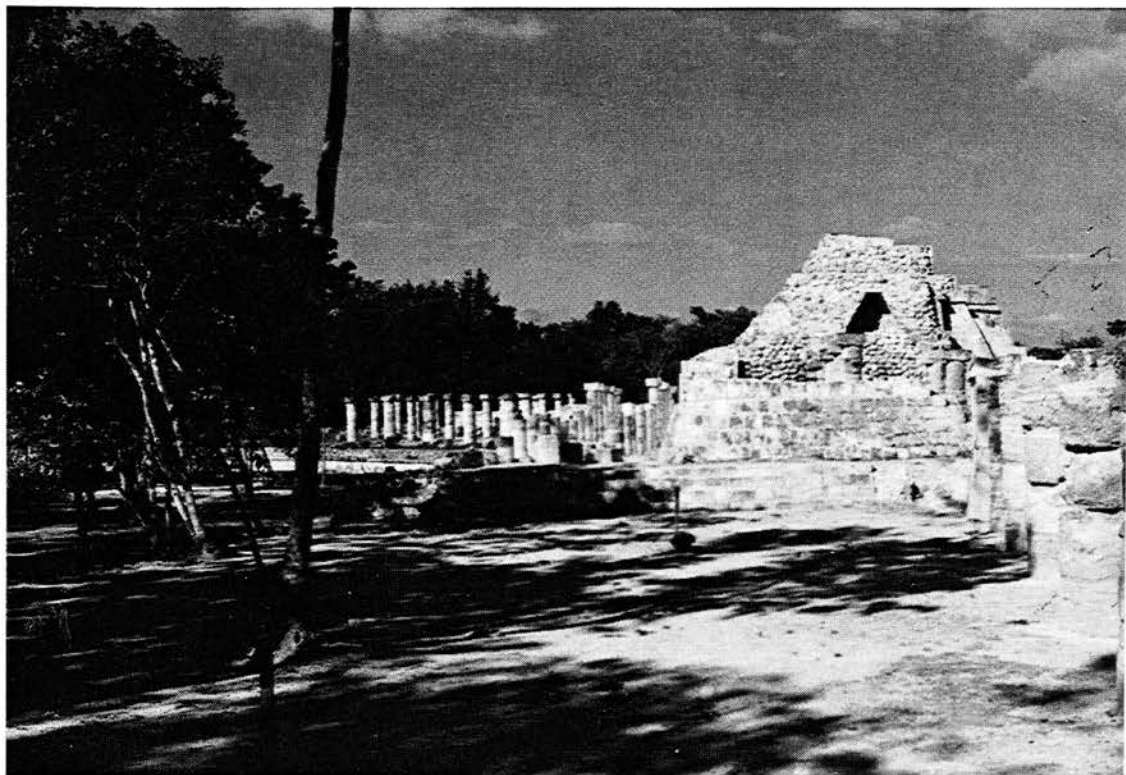
CHICHEN ITZA, West Colonnade, Court 1,000 Cols.



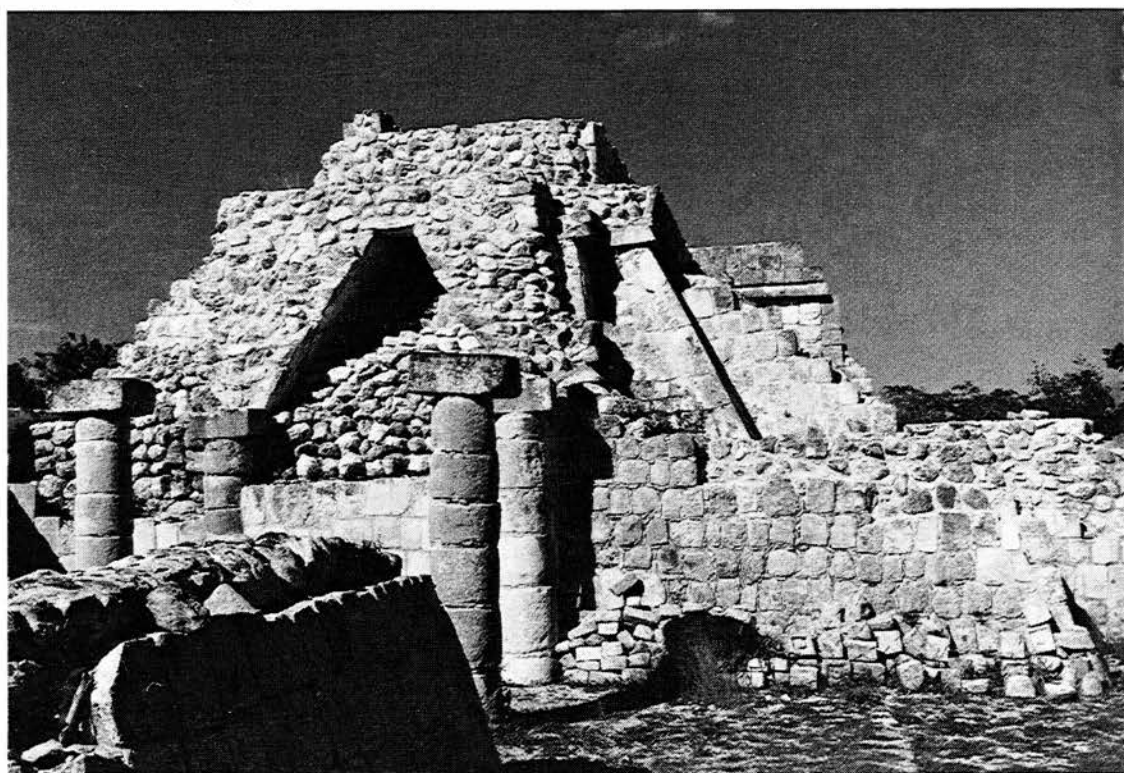
CHICHEN ITZA, West Colonnade as seen from Temple of the Warriors



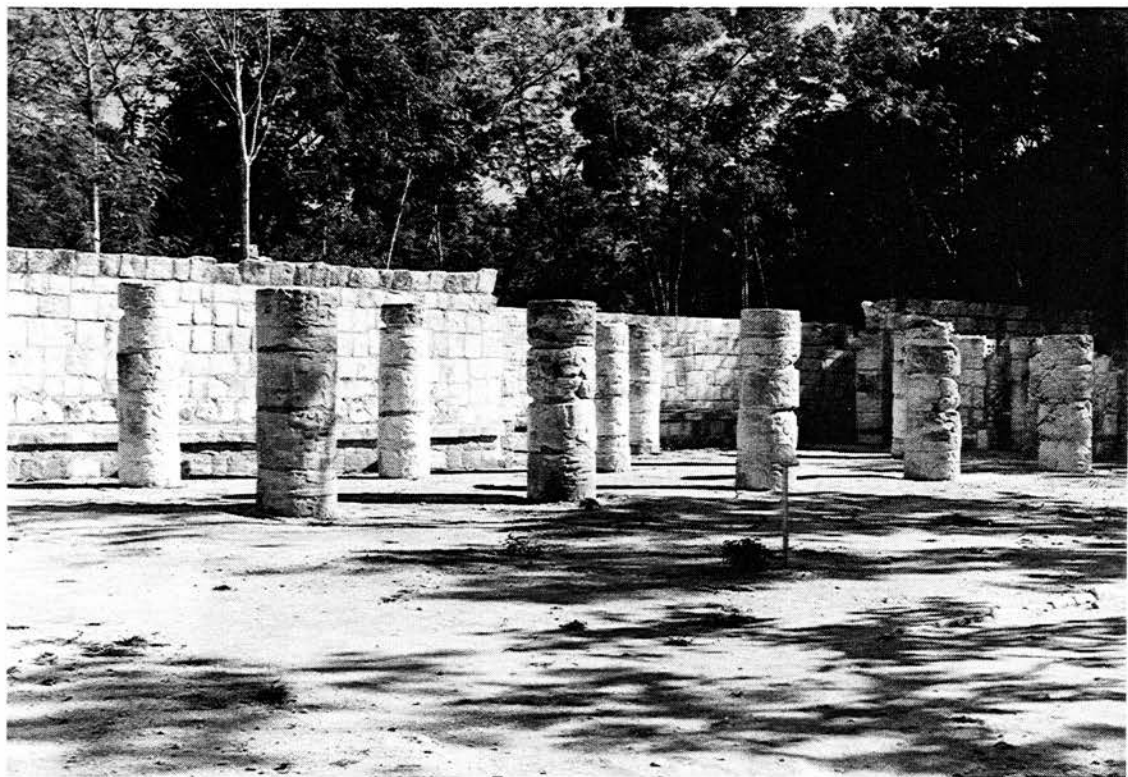
CHICHEN ITZA, South end of West Colonnade



CHICHEN ITZA, Structures 3D6 and 3D5.



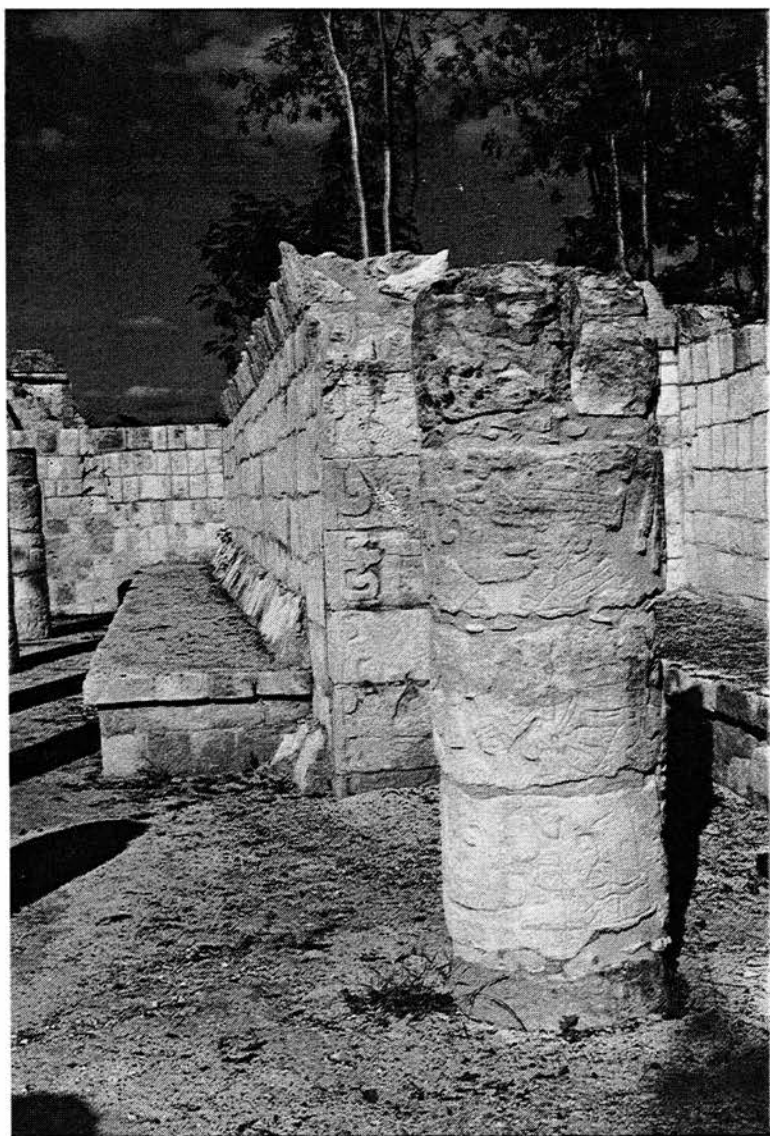
CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3D6. Note round columns and remains of vault.



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3D7. Note round columns and long bench



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3D7. Detail of round columns and long bench

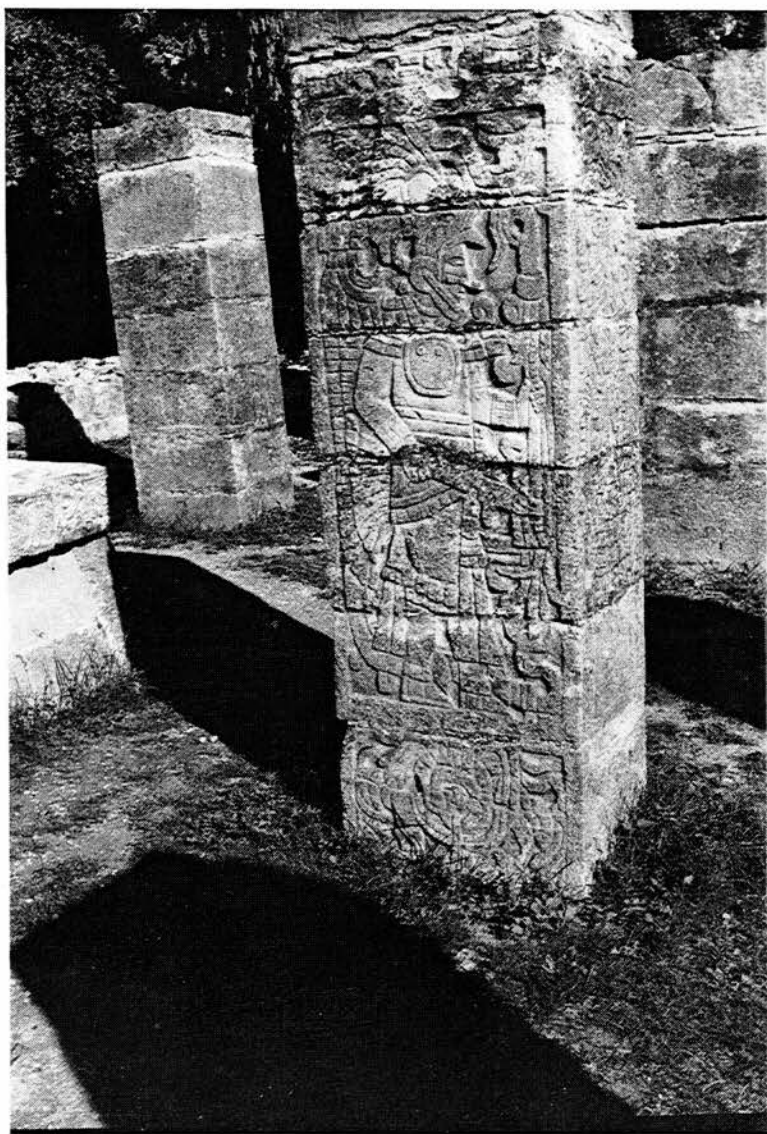


CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3D7. Detail of sculptured column.

*CHICHEN ITZA, Str. 3E1
Northeast Colonnade.*



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure 3E1 (Northeast Colonnade) Detail of facade



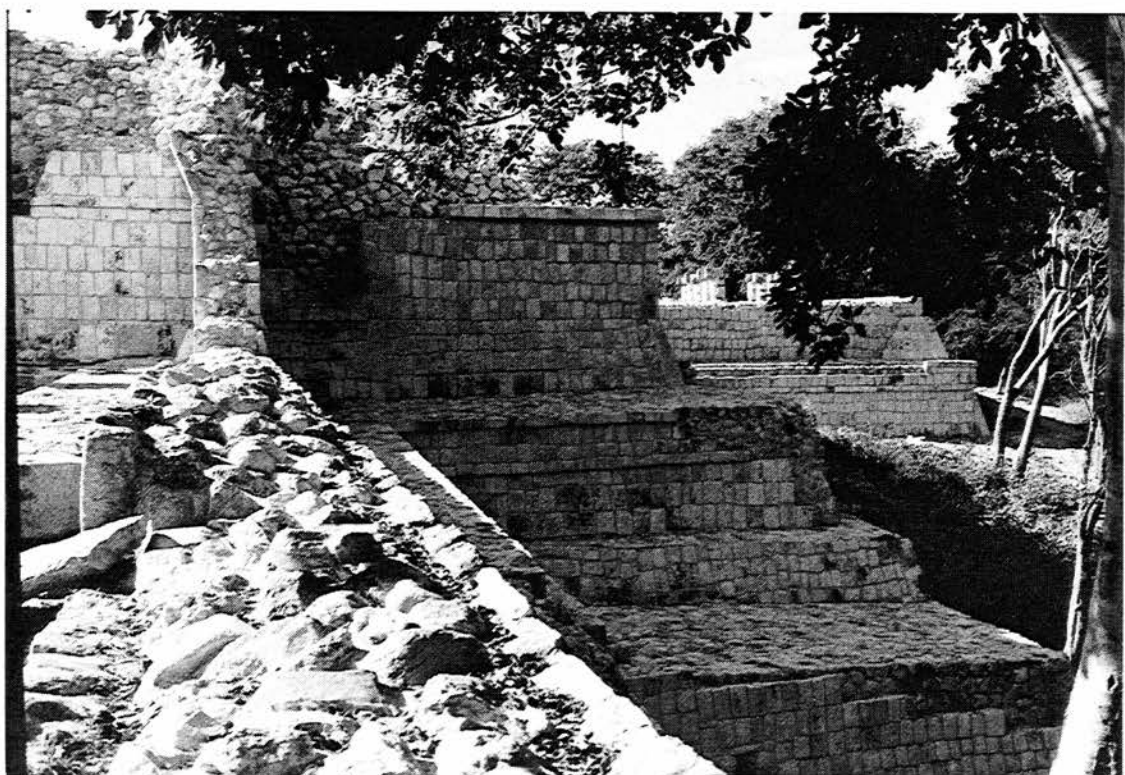
*CHICHEN ITZA, Northeast Colonnade, Detail of sculpt.
column*



CHICHEN ITZA, Xtaloc Temple (Structure 3D13. View of main room



CHICHEN ITZA, Xtaloc Temple (Structure 3D13). Columns and doorway to rear rooms.



CHICHEN ITZA, view from rear of Northeast Colonnade



CHICHEN ITZA, detail of retaining wall at northern edge of Great Platform



CHICHEN ITZA, Structure



CHICHEN ITZA, Detail of retaining wall, north side of main platform

IZAMAL



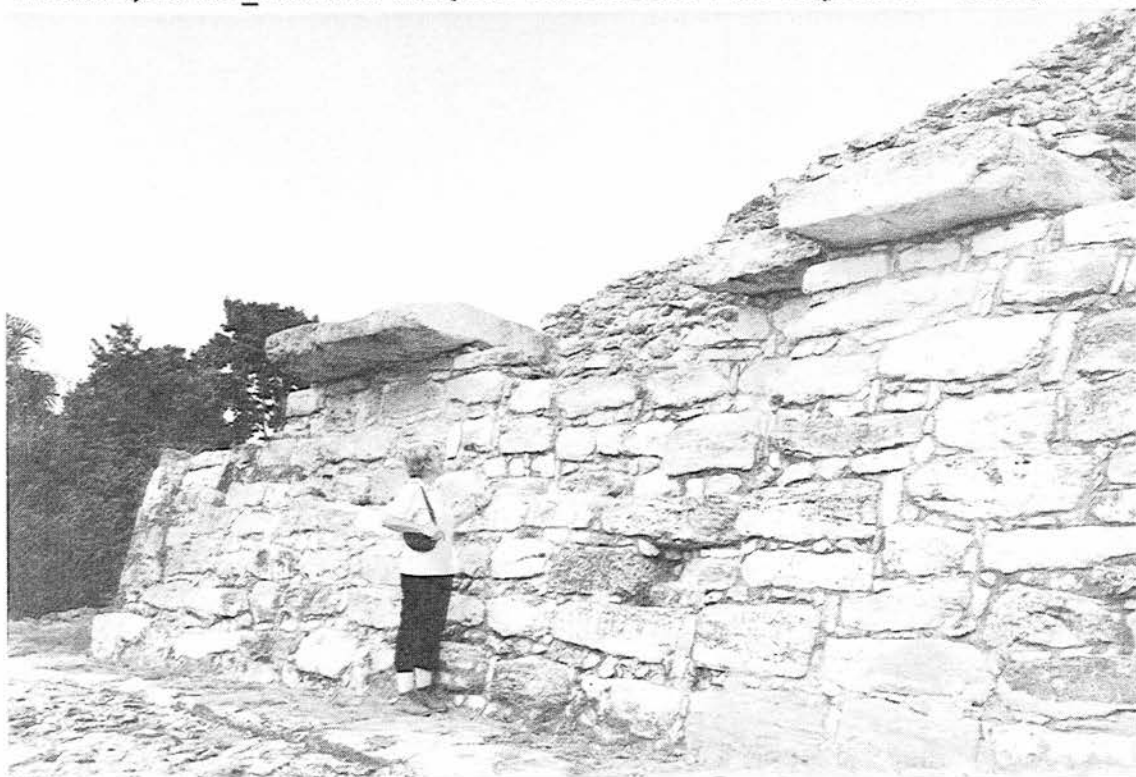
IZAMAL, Kinich-Kak-Moo Complex. Stepped substructure and stairway



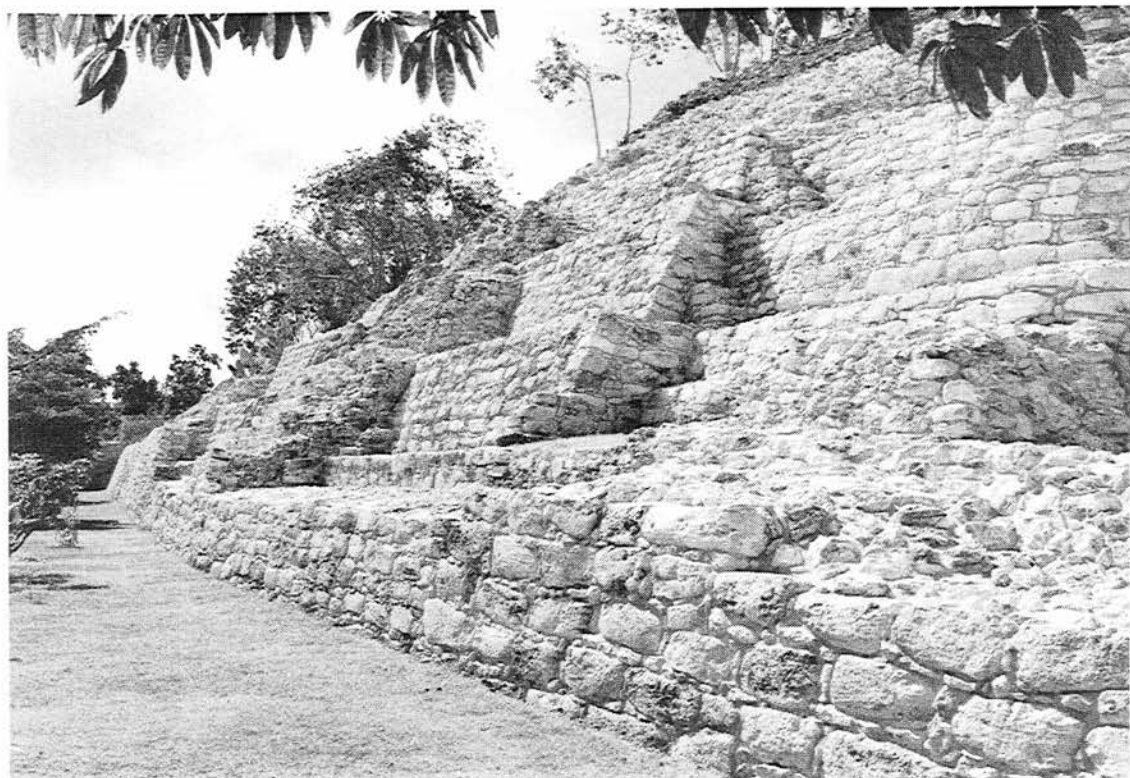
IZAMAL, Kinich-Kak-Moo complex. Portion of stepped substructure



IZAMAL, Kinich_Kak-Moo complex. Substructure with megalithic molding stones



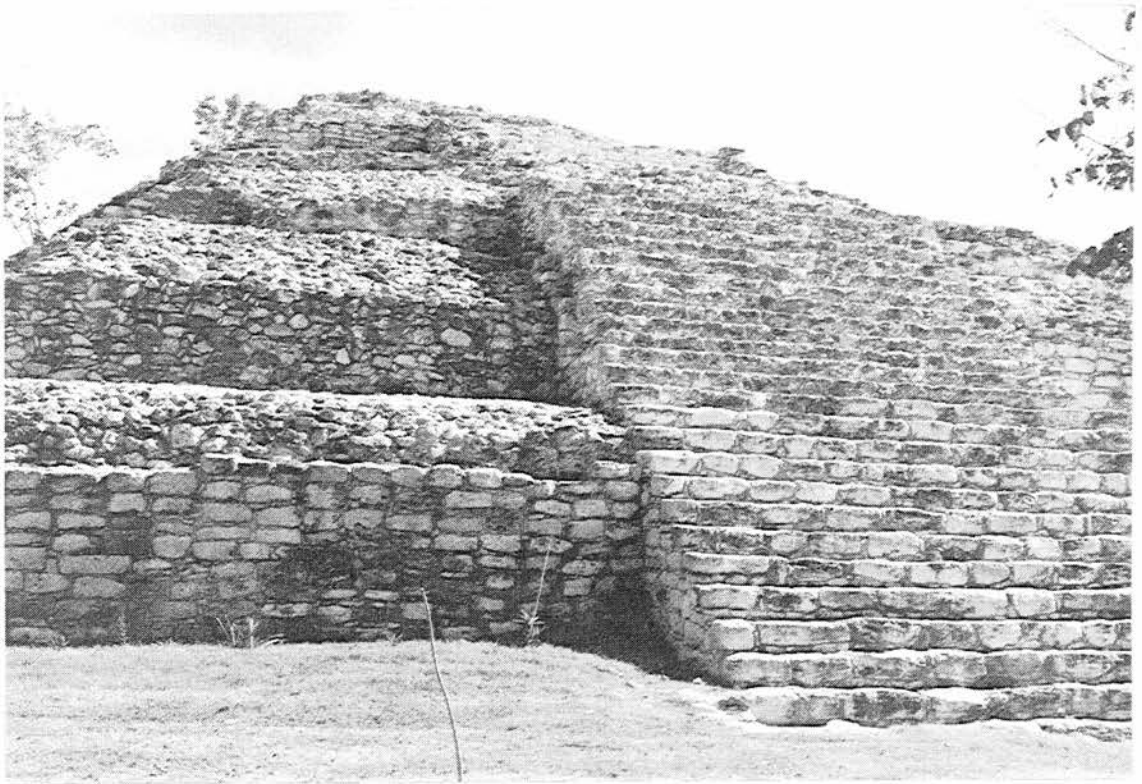
IZAMAL, Kinich-Kak-Moo complex. Detail of megalithic molding stones



IZAMAL, Kinich-Kak-Moo complex. Portion of stepped substructure



IZAMAL, Kinich-Kak-Moo complex. Portion of stepped substructure



IXAMAL, Kabul complex. Stepped pyramid and stairway, upper level



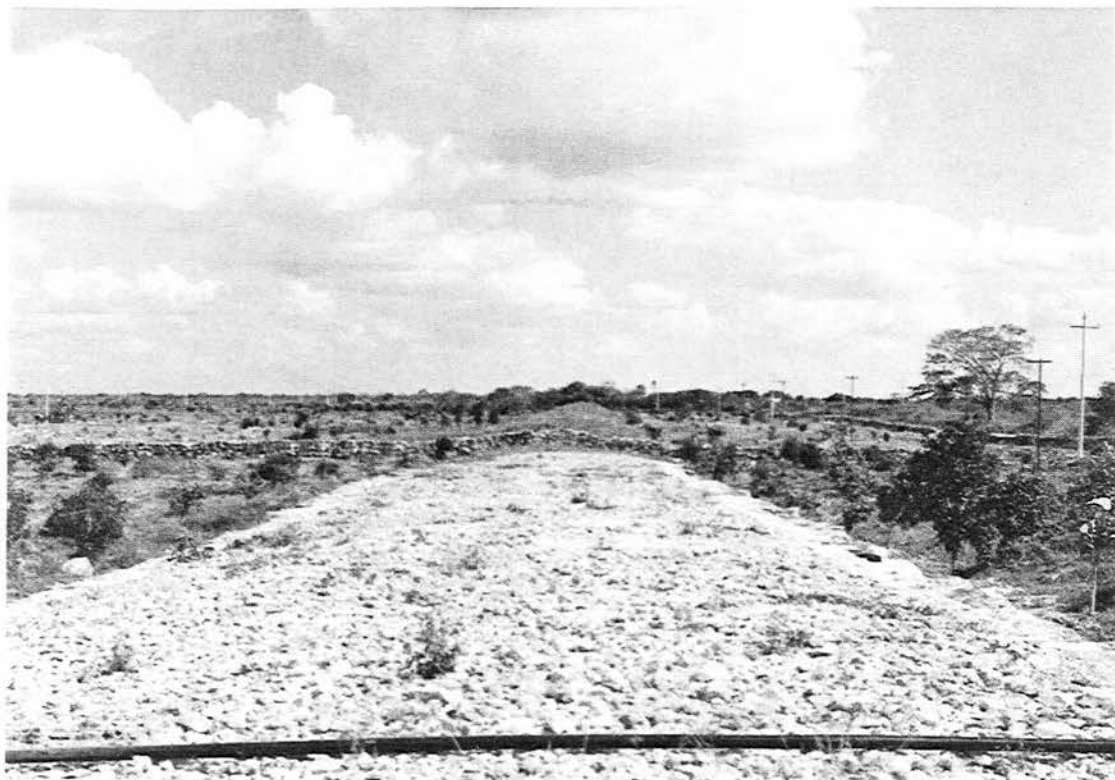
*IXAMAL, Kabul Complex.
Stairway, upper level.*



IZAMAL, Kabul complex. Stepped pyramid and stairway, upper level



IZAMAL, Kabul complex. Detail of stepped pyramid, upper level.



IZAMAL - Kantunil Sacbe. View looking north



IZAMAL - KANTUNIL Sacbe. View looking south



99 IZAMAL - KANTUNIL SACBE. View looking north



IZAMAL - KANTUNIL SACBE. View looking south

